

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 630.—VOL. X.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1867.

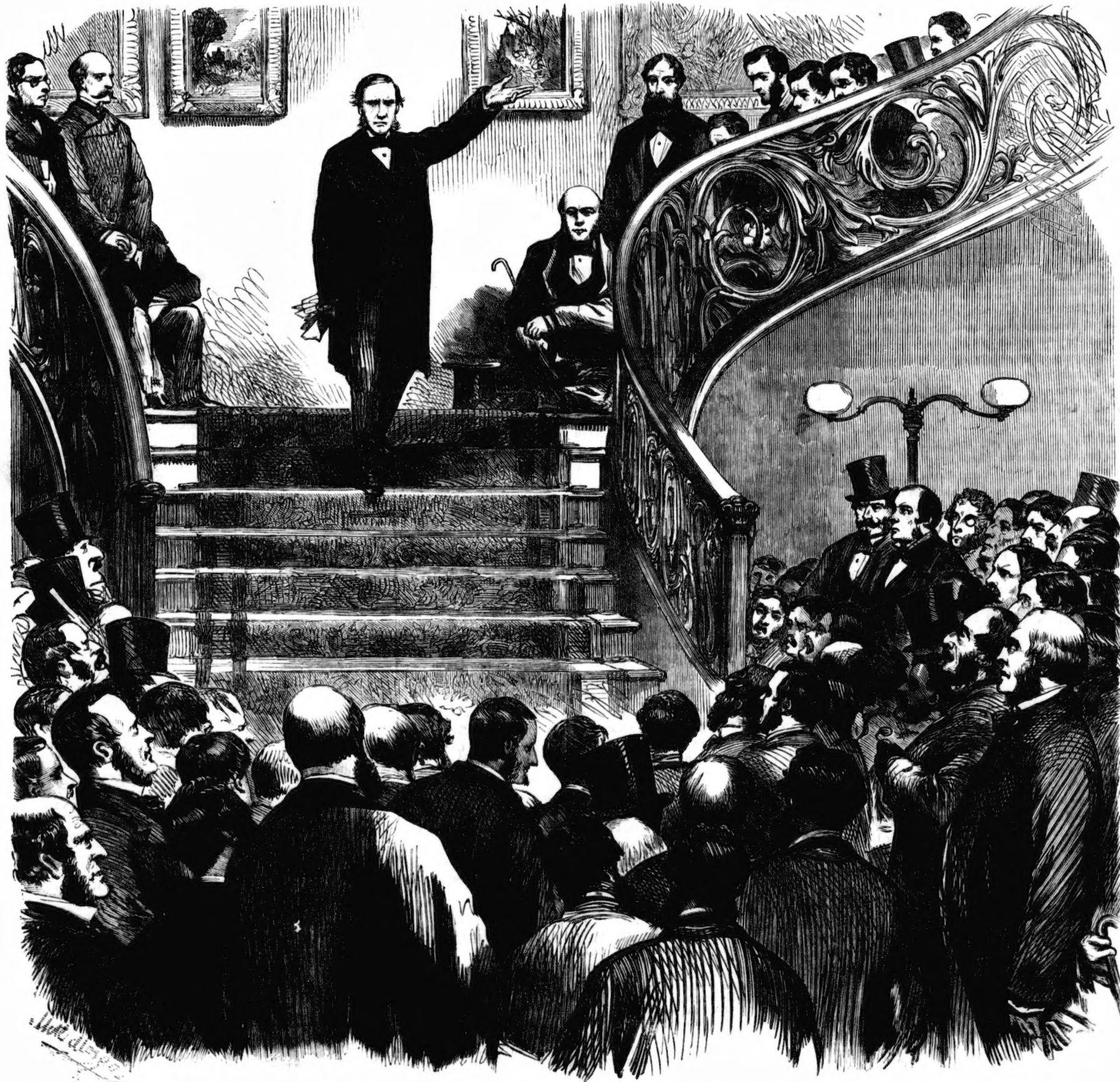
PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

ARMY DISCIPLINE AND ORGANISATION.

The discipline as well as the organisation of the Army has engaged a large measure of public attention lately; and it is natural that it should do so, for the one thing is inseparably connected with—nay, dependent upon—the other. According to the character of the men in the ranks, and the capacity of the officers to command, must be the means placed in the hands of the latter to secure obedience and preserve discipline. If the ranks are filled with men amenable to brute force only, and if officers cannot, or care not to, inspire any

other motive for obedience save brute force; if, in short, you have nothing but roughs, rudesbys, scamps, dullards, on the one side, and little else than supercilious noodles on the other, why, of course, brute force is the only influence upon which reliance can be placed to preserve discipline. The world is governed by superior strength in the long run—intellectual, moral, or physical; and, if the two first be lacking, there is no resource but to fall back upon the last. Hence the necessity—if there be a necessity—for maintaining the power of inflicting that most abominable

of punishments—the lash—in the British Army. But it follows from this that the best defence of flogging is the most complete condemnation of the system upon which the British Army is now constituted. If our present system merely secures for us men who can only be made to obey, and officers who can only command, with the aid of the cat-o'-nine-tails, does not that prove that our system is bad, and ought to be changed forthwith? The British Army is the only one in the world, we believe, in which the lash remains in use; and it is the only one, too, in which the purchase system obtains. The



MR. GLADSTONE ADDRESSING THE MEETING OF LIBERALS AT HIS HOUSE ON CARLTON HOUSE-TERRACE.

inference is too obvious to need pointing out. Great Britain, surely, has not a monopoly of blackguardism in the lower and of incompetence in the upper grades of society. The mischief is that, as a rule, our present system of army management only permits of our obtaining the worst of both ranks for this branch of the public service. We must change all that, and remodel our military forces on the principles which have been found to answer, and to answer so well, by our neighbours.

That the lash is unnecessary in an army constituted as a good army ought to be, and as our Army might be, is proved indubitably by the experience of the United States as well as of the great military Powers of Europe. During the late war the army of the United States was composed of the most diverse elements: there were in it men of almost all nations and of all sorts of characters; and yet the lash was unknown—was found unnecessary, even in face of the enemy. Discipline was maintained without it; and that, too, amongst men much more accustomed to exercise their own judgment and indulge their own inclinations, as well as to criticise the plans, and orders, and conduct of their superiors, than are British soldiers, or the class from among whom British soldiers are drawn. We may therefore conclude that, if discipline could be preserved in time of war in America, and under the circumstances in which the United States army was placed, it could be done with British troops, were the Army so constituted as to appeal to other and higher motives to obedience—were, in fact, other inducements to do his duty than the base fear of corporal punishment held out to the soldier. With good soldiers, well officered, the lash is unnecessary; with bad ones, badly officered, it will be ineffectual. Flogging may convert a tolerably good soldier into a bad one, and it will certainly make a bad one worse; but it will never reclaim a blackguard, or convert a scamp into a hero. Our system of recruiting, and officering, and the treatment to which he is subjected in the ranks, sufficiently degrades the common soldier; and liability to the lash, much less its actual infliction, must degrade him still more. Instead of persisting, as we do, in relying upon the most brutal influences, and appealing to the meanest, the basest, the most unworthy feelings of human nature, we should reform our military system altogether; and, by offering a chance of making a career in the Army to men of all ranks in the community, secure, by appealing to the highest and noblest aspirations of our common nature, the best and most thoroughly trained talent that offers.

The achievements of the Prussian army during the late war have been the theme of the wonder and admiration of Europe; and, while no doubt the superior weapon with which the Prussian soldier was armed gave him a great advantage, we are assured by those conversant with the matter that the superior *morale* of the troops was of more value still. All orders of men in Prussia are better educated than is ordinarily the case elsewhere; education is certainly more generally diffused there than it is with us; the Prussian army is composed of men belonging to all ranks in society; though officered largely by scions of aristocratic families, it is an aristocracy not of mere pelf, but of birth and position, stimulated by family traditions, eager for distinction, and compelled to compete for that distinction; and the result of all this is, that in the army of King William there exist a spirit of patriotism, a degree of intelligence, and a general community of sentiment, that make it capable of such great feats as those we have lately witnessed. The Prussian soldier is something much higher than a mere fighting animal—something more than a drilled human machine. He can comprehend the object of the orders he receives; he can appreciate the skill of his superiors as well as their mere courage—a quality, by-the-way, that is common to most men, and which soldiers of all sorts can, and do, appreciate; he understands the cause for which he fights, and knows that good and gallant conduct will be noticed and rewarded; and hence he fights with a *verve*, an earnestness, and a determination to which his late antagonists, at all events, seem to have been in a large degree strangers. Although all Prussian citizens are more or less soldiers, and have had a soldier's training, there is a much larger proportion of the Prussian troops who make military service their life's occupation than in the Austrian or the British army; and hence there are more men among them thoroughly competent to command and to secure obedience and respect than in either of the services we have named. This fact, too, secures a greater degree of community of feeling between officers and men; for both know each other well, and value each other in proportion to their mutual knowledge.

In the Austrian and in the British service it is different. Neither officers nor men make arms their life's profession; they enter the army for a time—the privates, from pressure of circumstances, while in trouble, or from being inveigled under false pretences by Sergeant Kites and their attendant crimps; the officers, as a temporary amusement—and both quit it as soon as they conveniently can; and hence they never become other than strangers, comparatively, to each other. The great disparity in social rank, too, between our officers and their men tends to erect and to maintain that "wall of separation," deprecated by Sir Charles Trevelyan, which ever must exist where wealth is the sole distinctive characteristic on the one side and poverty the universal lot on the other. Were promotion from the lowest to the highest grades open to all, and dependent entirely on service and merit, the pride of wealth and the abjectness of impecuniosity, which are the bane of our military system, would disappear, and manhood, and skill, and capacity would rise to their

native dignity, and command the honour, the rank, and the emoluments that are the due of such qualities, and of such only.

It is common to say that we Britons are not a military nation; and if by this is meant that we are not an aggressive race who fight for fighting's sake, it is true. But if it be designed to insinuate that, as a people, we have no genius for war, then we say that our whole history proves the contrary. Whenever free scope is given to our capacities and energies, whenever the force of circumstances breaks down the artificial barriers which conventionalism and class exclusiveness have placed in the way of talent, talent has never failed to assert itself. We are accustomed, also, to talk of the value and importance of our middle classes to the stability of the State, and the promotion and conduct of enterprises of pith and moment in all civilian walks of life. And if there were no impediments to their action, middle-class capacity, energy, diligence, skill, and application would tell in the Army as in other pursuits. In the legal, the medical, the clerical, and the commercial careers, there is no artificial bar to the progress of capacity: the highest prizes in each of these spheres of action are within the reach of the humblest novice; and the result is that, as a rule, merit comes to the surface. Did the same conditions obtain in the Army, like results would follow. You would then have men willing, to obey because they one day hope to command. You would have men able to command because they have already learned to obey. The lash, and the brand, and the prison would cease to be necessary, because other and better influences would take their place. With a superior class of men in the ranks, discipline would be maintained by moral means; there would arise a public opinion in the Army more potent for good than all the punishments that can be devised. If respectability of character predominated in the barrack-room, respectability would put down blackguardism there, as it does everywhere else. Punishments would become unnecessary, because crime and the tendencies that lead to crime would be nipped in the bud. If even-handed justice were meted to all ranks in the Army, the Army would maintain its own discipline without the aid of such debasing appliances as the lash. Mr. Otway's occupation would be gone; and British officers would be spared the humiliation of being compelled practically to confess their inability to maintain discipline among their men by the force of their own character and the superiority of their professional qualifications.

We should be delivered, moreover, from some of the absurdities and inconsistencies that now characterise and disgrace our military system. We should not then, as now, be forced to select officers for high command who have risen, not by merit, or skill, or experience, but by mere weight of purse. At present the supreme command of our armies is intrusted to men selected from what are called the "combatant officers"—that is, the very men who have obtained their rank by purchase, and who have not studied the rules of their art; while the scientific branches—the artillery and engineers, among whom our only really educated soldiers are to be found—are all but totally excluded from the chance of high command. Change the system—make advancement depend upon superior attainment and meritorious service, and all our officers would then be scientific soldiers, because all would have had to go through a course of professional education ere they obtained commissions or promotion. We should be saved, too, the inconsistency of the army at home and the army in India being officered upon different principles. There is no promotion by purchase in her Majesty's Indian army, and yet we will be bold to say that our Indian officers are, as a body, decidedly superior as soldiers to their money-made aristocratic brethren at home. It is objected sometimes that the abolition of the purchase system would open a wide door to favouritism and abuse of patronage. But that is only another confession of unfitness for their position in those who occupy high places in the Army. If those at the head of our military establishment have not sufficient honesty to discharge their duties fairly and with impartiality, they, too, must be reformed out of the way and better men put in their places. There is no promotion by purchase in the French army, and yet we have never heard that nepotism has become a scandal in the army of France. Surely Englishmen are as capable of honestly discharging public duties as Frenchmen. Lastly, there would be an end of the absurdity that now obtains of the Secretary for War buying back the very commissions he has himself given away, and repeating the operation again and again, as it is a fact that he now does. In short, with the abolition of the pernicious purchase system, the worst of the anomalies, the injustices, the absurdities, the inequalities, the inconveniences, and the drawbacks that now cumber our military system would disappear, and a healthier, because a more natural and just, state of things would be inaugurated.

MEETING OF LIBERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AT MR. GLADSTONE'S.

On the afternoon of Friday week an important and largely-attended meeting of the Liberal party was held at Mr. Gladstone's residence in Carlton House-terrace. The object of the gathering was to determine what action should be taken by the party in consequence of the second reading of the Government Reform Bill having been allowed to pass, and of the measure going into Committee on Monday. The meeting was summoned for two o'clock, but members began to arrive much earlier, and in such numbers, that the gathering had again to be held in the lobby of the house, none of the rooms being sufficiently large to provide accommodation. A crowd had assembled outside, and several of the members were recognised and loudly applauded as they entered. Among these were Mr. Bright, Mr. Mill, Mr. Fawcett, and Sir John Gray. Mr.

Roebuck was hooted and hissed both on entering and leaving Mr. Gladstone's; so was Mr. Horsman. Between 250 and 260 gentlemen were present. Although the course determined upon at this meeting was, in consequence of dissension in the Liberal ranks, departed from, it is of importance to record the views propounded by Mr. Gladstone, as they are embodied in the amendments of which he has given notice upon the bill of the Government:—

Mr. Gladstone presented himself on the stairs of the hall and was received with loud cheers.

He began his speech by reminding the meeting of the understanding they had at the last meeting, on March 21, when he received the unanimous authority of the party to do three things—first, to press upon the Government that an early day should be appointed for going into Committee on the Reform Bill; secondly, to insist on the recognition of the principle that all classes of persons who should be admitted to the franchise should receive equal access to the enjoyment of the privilege; and, thirdly, that the party should be at liberty to reconsider their position in case the declaration made by the Government should not be satisfactory. Since that day they had consented to the second reading of the bill in the House, and now they met to look at the position in which they had brought the question; to define the end which they had in view. He thought there were three points—one paramount and two others highly important. The first was to get a good Reform Bill passed—that was, a bill giving a liberal enfranchisement to the people, and putting an end to the agitation of the question in the country; secondly, that the bill should be passed in the course of the present Session; and, thirdly, that it should be passed through the medium of the present Government. He considered himself, in abandoning his opposition to the second reading, as having bound himself and those whom he might influence to take every possible means of working the bill through the Committee, if they had a prospect which justified them in persevering in that course, and to keep that object in view in all good faith. They were agreed as to the present position of the bill. There was an almost universal concurrence of opinion as to the defective and wholly unsatisfactory character of the provisions of the bill as it then stood, and as to the kind of amendment we should endeavour to introduce. In undertaking to make a bad bill into a good one, let them not disguise from themselves that they were pledging themselves to a very difficult, though not absolutely impossible, task. He frankly confessed to them, however, that he regarded that task as entirely hopeless, unless they should be happy enough to be able to adopt a common course, and to pursue that course unitedly, with discretion and with resolution. Discredit as well as failure awaited them if they should not be able to fulfil those conditions. Referring to what had passed in the House, he said that the speeches of Mr. Hardy and the Solicitor-General had done nothing to clear their course. Of the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, able as it was, the general opinion was that he avoided committing himself to anything beyond the abandonment of the dual vote—a concession which, he observed, was not made to the Liberals but to his own side of the House; yet he intimated that, if an adequate pressure were put upon him, such alterations might still be made as would bring a good bill out of a bad bill. It would become, therefore, incumbent on them to apply that pressure—a firm and united and yet a gentle pressure, directed of everything that could make it invidious or offensive. They must march straight to that object; they must give no plausible opportunity for saying that they were imposing intolerable terms on the Government. Now, what was the form in which they should do this? After a great deal of thought, and taking great pains to learn the opinion of the party, he had come to the conclusion that they might safely leave to be dealt with in Committee all propositions which could be defined as single propositions—such, for example, as the county franchise and the redistribution of seats. Even the figure of the borough franchise it might be well to deal with in Committee; and the lodger franchise, which was the most vital point of all as regarded the metropolis, might also be dealt with in Committee. In fact, everything that can be dealt with in Committee we should leave to be dealt with in Committee. But, on what basis should they seek for a settlement of the capital subject of the borough franchise? The basis contained in the bill was entirely unsatisfactory. What he suggested was, that they should apply the personal rating as a negative test; not to say that every man should be denied the privilege of voting who was not a personal ratepayer, but that only that portion of society who were clearly in a position of dependence and without education should be excluded from the franchise. When he had before given that suggestion, it had been received with favour both there and in the House of Commons; but if they adopted that plan they were confronted with a difficulty arising out of the forms of the House. If they wished to say that a certain portion of the community should be exempted from personal rating, they must obtain power to readjust the law of rating. If they were to enact an exemption from rates below a certain line, they must consider what should be done as to the liability of landholders. Mr. Poulett Scrope, for instance, proposed to exempt all tenements below a certain value from liability to poor rates; for questions would arise as to the effect which any new enactment might have upon votes for municipal and vestry elections. Under these circumstances it became necessary that they should go into Committee on the Reform Bill with power to alter the law of rating, and their special point should be, that below a certain line the franchise should not be enjoyed, whilst above that line all occupiers should be admitted to vote. Now, the power could only be given by an instruction to the Committee. There were two things to be remarked—namely, first, that any instruction given to the Committee must give it a power which it did not already possess, and, consequently, this instruction or one of this nature, would be necessary either for our purpose or for the purpose of the Government if they should accede to our views, or for the purpose of enabling Lord Grosvenor—the cause of whose absence all must deplore—to bring his amendment under the notice of the House; and, secondly, that it should not be moved as an amendment to the Speaker's leaving the chair. On the contrary, an instruction of this kind would go on the assumption that the Speaker was to leave the chair. If they did not pass an instruction of this kind they would be exposed to all the evils of wandering among the details of the bill for several weeks, with a perfect uncertainty as to what might be the final result. If they wished to draw a line to mark the extension of the franchise it could only be satisfactorily done by an instruction given to the Committee. In doing this they must endeavour to avoid even the semblance of hostility. Hostility to the provisions of the bill, indeed, they could not pretend to avoid; but hostility to the Government as a Government, or any manifestation of indisposition to get rid of the Government, by imposing on them unreasonable conditions, they must avoid. It was important, then, to consider who should be requested to move the instruction to the Committee, and he hoped that they would approve of a gentleman who had occurred to him as altogether proper—namely, Mr. Coleridge, the member for Exeter, than whom no man enjoys better favour on both sides of the House, who always propounded his views with the most refined delicacy, and whose professional character would be a guarantee for his doing perfect justice to the motion. The instruction, he thought, should be to the following effect:—"That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to alter the law of rating, and to provide that in every Parliamentary borough the occupiers of tenements below a given rateable value be relieved from liability to personal rating, with a view to fix a line for the borough franchise at and above which all occupiers shall be entered on the rate-book, and shall have equal facilities for the enjoyment of such franchise as a residential occupation franchise." In this way they would reduce the question to the simplest issue. But then he must draw their attention to one effect of the course which he was proposing—viz., that it laid upon the whole Liberal party a great responsibility. It was not the Government only, but the Opposition also, whom the country would hold responsible for the failure or success of this measure. Their power was perfect, but it depended upon their union. If they made any reasonable demand upon the Government, that demand must succeed. But they would not obtain that success unless they should manifest both their power and their determination to obtain it for themselves. In that sense he invited them to act. And he could not help adverting to the encouragement which might be derived from an occurrence of the present week. On Monday he had asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he would be willing to make alterations in the bill. The Chancellor of the Exchequer distinctly informed him that he intended to strike out the dual vote, but that for anything else they were to trust the Government. That was on Monday; but it doubtless became known that it was their intention to press strongly for an enlargement of the franchise to be given by the Government Bill, and the consequence was that last night the right hon. gentleman told them that clauses would be prepared, as additions to the present bill, which would facilitate the giving of the vote to compound householders. Whatever those alterations might be, there would be no reason for changing the course which the Liberal party should pursue. If the clauses so improved the bill as to be satisfactory to the Liberal party they would rejoice, because he felt they would make it much easier for the Government to accede to the principles they (the Liberals) laid down to do away with the frivolous and needless distinction between man and man, and to accede frankly to the principle that the franchise should be enjoyed equally by those in a condition of life and a position of independence which would give them a title to it; but he must complain of the delay in producing them. It would be remembered that more than two thirds of the householders below £10 were compound householders; yet the clauses relating to them would not be in the hands of members till to-morrow morning, when it would be absolutely too late to give notice of any amendments. No one there would be fettered in his discretion in discussing the clauses by anything which had then passed or which might be agreed upon. Being totally ignorant of their character, he could not speculate on the subject. On the whole, he felt that if the Liberal party were enabled to proceed as they had done thus far, a united party, they had every prospect of bringing the great and difficult question to a satisfactory solution. He had a most painful conviction of his own insufficiency for the position in which he was placed. Yet he would not shrink from the responsibility which rested upon him. He would do what was possible; to attempt the

impossible is not the act of a rational man, but to attempt the possible is. And, if he were favoured with the hope of being able to assist in maintaining that union and concord in the ranks which had thus far been maintained, he should go forward cheerfully to discharge his part of the duty, and he should endeavour to discharge it in the spirit in which they wished it to be discharged, and with every hope of success.

Mr. Gladstone was repeatedly and heartily cheered in the course of his address. At its close

Mr. Locke suggested that the resolution proposed was too full, and that it would be better if it stopped at the end of the first three lines. Their object should be merely to give instructions to the Committee to make alterations in the law of rating, and he thought it undesirable that they should proceed to indicate the particular mode to be adopted. The effect of the latter part of the resolution would be to lessen the number of persons who would be placed on the register. In one direction it would increase the number of voters, and in another it would diminish them, because it proposed to draw a line below which no occupier could possess the franchise. The Government bill said that, if a householder paid his own rates, he should have a vote; whereas this resolution said that, whatever the householder might do, below a certain line he should not have the vote.

In this view Mr. Clay concurred, while Mr. Ayrton and Mr. Bright urged that the party should concur in the policy of their leader, and support him as heartily as "if he were at that moment leader of the House of Commons or Prime Minister of the country."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

In the present critical state of the negotiations on the Luxembourg cession the bureau of the Corps Législatif have refused to authorise the interpellations of M. Favre and M. Lambrecht on that subject. It is said the question of the sale of the Grand Duchy has been shelved for the present, and that the question that France intends to submit to the Powers who signed the Treaty of 1839 is the right of Prussia to keep a garrison in the fortress of Luxembourg. It is reported in Paris that the Emperor regrets the position into which he has got himself, and desires that the demand for Luxembourg may be dropped just as the former demand for the Rhine provinces was dropped. This story, however, meets with no very general belief; while, so far as the people are concerned, they are growing more and more warlike every hour. *The Presse* says:—"We learn that the British and Russian Cabinets, in reply to a question from the Prussian Government, have declared that, the dissolution of the Germanic Confederation having put an end to the engagements contracted through the Treaty of 1839 by the King of Holland, they do not consider themselves authorised to address, in virtue of that treaty, any observations to the Dutch King with reference to any decision which his Majesty may think fit to take with regard to Luxembourg."

The *Etendard* announces that the conversion of the arms of the infantry regiments actively continues, and that a large portion of the army will soon be provided with the Chassepot rifle.

ITALY.

The Cabinet of Baron Ricasoli resigned office last week without any particular apparent cause, and, Signor Rattazzi having been commissioned by the King to form a Government, the following gentlemen have accepted office:—President of the Ministry and Minister of the Interior, Signor Rattazzi; Foreign Affairs, Signor Miniscalchi Erizzo; Public Instruction, Signor Coppino; Marine, Signor Pescetto; Finance, Signor Ferraris; Justice, Signor Tecchio; Public Works, Signor Giovanola; Agriculture, Signor Deblassis.

On Saturday the King received deputations from the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate charged with the presentation of the Addresses in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The King, in his reply, said that the circumstances under which the late Ministry resigned were of a serious character, and it had become necessary to form a Ministry of a conciliatory nature, comprising all parties. He had charged Signor Rattazzi to form a Cabinet in this spirit, and one which could count upon the support of deputies of all shades of opinion. His Majesty added that the most serious question at the present time was that of the finances, and that he felt so greatly its importance that he had made it the special object of his attention.

SPAIN.

General Calonge, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a question addressed to him in the Senate on Tuesday evening relative to the Tornado case, stated that the Government would cause the rights of the nation and the decision of the Spanish tribunals to be respected.

GERMANY.

A large meeting was held on Sunday in the Alhambra, Berlin, at which the following resolutions were passed by a large majority:—"That this meeting declares that Luxembourg must never be separated from Germany. That it is the duty of the German people to insist with all their strength upon this province belonging to Germany. That the union of this province with Germany must take place as soon as possible. That any proposal for the votes of the inhabitants of Luxembourg to be taken is to be unhesitatingly rejected."

The Berlin papers of Tuesday state that, in case of the recurrence of war, the equipment of the troops would be unchanged from that in last year's campaign. The North German army would be completely furnished with needle-guns, as well as the new Federal corps formed by the Saxon troops. The fortifications of Kiel Bay, Alsen, and Sundewitt are to be considerably extended in the spring, and rapidly carried on to provisional completion.

RUSSIA.

At its sitting on Monday the Council of State voted the budget for the coming financial year. Income and expenditure balance, each being 144,000,000 roubles, including the budget for Poland. As compared with last year, the revenue has increased by 16,500,000 roubles, and the expenditure by 19,000,000. The returns from taxation show an increase upon the previous year.

TURKEY.

A telegram from Constantinople states that the Porte has addressed a note to the Greek Government threatening to invade Greece if it persisted in its hostile proceedings against Turkey.

The Imperial Commissioner, Mustapha Pacha, has returned from Crete. The representatives of France, Russia, Austria, Prussia, and Italy are jointly pressing the Porte to grant an armistice to the Cretans and to consult the Christian population whether they would prefer an autonomy or to be annexed to Greece. The English Ambassador, acting apart, only recommends an autonomy. At present the Porte refuses both these propositions, but would probably consent to an autonomy under a guarantee of the great Powers.

Large reinforcements are being sent to the Greek frontiers, where a serious outbreak is shortly apprehended. The Generalissimo of the Turkish Army, Omar Pacha, is going to take the command in chief. Twenty thousand militia have been called out, and great apprehensions are entertained for the internal tranquillity of Constantinople, and the importation of arms has been prohibited.

CRETE.

It is stated from a Greek source that, after three days' fighting, Basilios, at the head of a large number of insurgents, has beaten and repulsed the Turks as far as the camp at Rethymnos. Hadji Michaelis is also reported to have gained a victory over the Turks near Cana.

THE UNITED STATES.

By the Atlantic cable we learn that the American Senate was engaged on Tuesday in discussing the treaty for the cession of Russian America to the United States, and that on the following day (Wednesday) it agreed to the treaty almost unanimously.

In vetoing the Supplemental Reconstruction Bill the President made a strong protest against the arbitrary proceedings of Congress towards the South. He said it was a scoff and a satire on liberty for the terms of government to be prescribed by military leaders and for the suffrage to be exercised at the point of the sword. Notwith-

standing, as our readers are aware, Congress passed the bill over Mr. Johnson's veto, and it is now in operation. Fortunately, the appointment of the military governors was in the hands of the President, and the Generals he has selected are using their powers with moderation and discretion.

The Governor of Georgia had filed a bill in the Supreme Court to stay the execution of the Reconstruction Act.

A mass meeting of negroes had been held at Macon, at which a resolution was adopted thanking Congress for emancipating them and expressing kind feelings towards their late masters. At a mass meeting of negroes and Radicals held at Charleston, several speakers urged the negroes to resist the efforts of rebels to control their votes. After the meeting the negroes were riotous, and several arrests were made.

A wide extent of the best cotton and sugar lands of Louisiana has been rendered useless for this season by floods on the Mississippi. The freedmen's settlement of De Soto was submerged, and one hundred lives have been lost.

A coal-pit explosion had taken place near Richmond, Virginia, by which seventy persons were killed.

Mr. Seward had written to Juarez, urging that the Emperor Maximilian, in the event of his being captured, should be treated as a prisoner of war.

MEXICO.

Accounts were received from Mexico in New York, on Saturday, stating that the Liberals under Escobedo had been defeated, and that the Emperor Maximilian was returning to the capital.

THE LUXEMBURG QUESTION.

EXPLANATIONS IN THE FRENCH CHAMBER.

IN Monday's sitting of the Legislative Body, MM. Favre, Lambrecht, and Jossau made several demands for leave to question the Government relative to the grand duchy of Luxembourg. The President of the Chamber announced that he had received a decree authorising the Minister for Foreign Affairs to make a declaration to the Senate and the Legislative Body on that subject. The Marquis de Moustier then rose and informed the deputies that he had received orders from the Emperor to acquaint them with the circumstances under which the Luxembourg question had arisen, and also with the actual position of the matter. He said:—

The Government, guided by the interests of France, which require the preservation of peace, has brought to the consideration of this question thoughts only of conciliation and peace. Nor was it the French Government that raised the discussion of the question. The undecided situation of Luxembourg and Limburg gave rise to diplomatic communications between France and Holland; but these communications had no official character when the Dutch Cabinet consulted Prussia, and when the latter replied by appealing to the Treaty of 1839. The French Government had always considered this question from three points of view—namely, as connected with the free consent of Holland, the loyal examination of the treaties by the Great Powers, and the consultation of the wishes of the inhabitants by means of universal suffrage. The French Government is disposed to examine the question in concert with the great Powers, and believes, therefore, that peace cannot be disturbed.

This declaration was received with cheers and expressions of various kinds.

STATEMENT IN THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT.

The following is a full report of the proceedings at a sitting of the Dutch Chamber of Deputies on the 5th inst., when M. Thorbecke, the leader of the Opposition, put a question to the Government as to the Luxembourg matter. In the course of his speech M. Thorbecke said:—

It is of high importance to us that our foreign relations should not suffer by whatever happens to Luxembourg. We must not be dragged into any conflict. No reasons exist which can excite against us, in the matter of Luxembourg, the unfriendly sentiments and ill-will of some Governments. These Governments must not have cause to reproach us. It is certainly essential to observe a dignified attitude when we do not wish to be exposed to annoyance; when we desire, whatever takes place in Luxembourg, to avoid any disadvantage resulting to Holland—that is to say, because Holland has no part in the affairs of Luxembourg." Alluding to Count Bismarck's statement that the Dutch Government had tendered its good offices in negotiations supposed to be in progress with regard to Luxembourg between France and Prussia, M. Thorbecke asked whether those words were based upon anything but a misunderstanding.

Count van Zuylen van Nyevelt, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replied as follows:—

This interpellation is very agreeable to me for two reasons. First, personally, because it supplies me with an opportunity of completely justifying my conduct; secondly, and chiefly, because it enables me to defend the King of Holland against accusations at variance with the truth, which have been learnt with indignation by all who are attached to their Sovereign and their country. It cannot be the hon. member's intention to inquire now what are the views of the Grand Duke with regard to Luxembourg and what is or is not desirable in this matter. I know that the Grand Duke has seriously and minutely examined this question, and that, after long study, he has arrived at the conviction that the interest of Holland demanded the rupture of the dynastic tie—weak though it be—existing between Holland and Luxembourg. I have still to touch upon a delicate point. There has never been any question of the millions and treasure that have been talked about. If compensation had been required, that compensation would have been so small that it would not even have amounted to the half of the revenue agreed upon in 1816. As for the question whether Count Bismarck's reply is based upon a misunderstanding, there can be no difference of opinion save upon one point. The offer did not apply to negotiations already opened, but to those which might be entered into subsequently. There have been no negotiations with regard to Luxembourg, but there has been an exchange of views (*pourparlers*). I am not aware of what have been termed official negotiations and the exchange of written despatches. The object of these interviews was to arrive at negotiations, and they will, perhaps, result later in an arrangement. As a matter of course, only the Luxembourg Government and Luxembourg statesmen are able to conclude such an arrangement. The question now arises whether the interest of Holland does not require that we should keep, so to speak, our eyes open, to see how we shall dispose of the property of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, or whether we must not in any way concern ourselves with the matter. I am entirely of the hon. member's opinion that Holland has nothing more to do with the affairs of Luxembourg than with those of any other State, and it is impossible not to see that public opinion in Germany is either ill-informed or desires to be so. The question is to know whether the Dutch Government can be made responsible for the acts of the grand ducal Government; and to show that fear is not futile, we may recall what took place upon the entry of Luxembourg into the German Customs Union. How, therefore, shall the Dutch Government act to cover its responsibility while directing affairs? It has been said that everybody has only one object—viz., to preserve peace. This has also been the principal aim of the Grand Duke, and is the reason why he felt himself disposed to listen to representations; but the whole question was enveloped in a certain mistiness, and the consequence might well have been that a transaction which had been considered as the means of preserving peace might have had a precisely opposite result. Now, the Minister was aware that the President of the Luxembourg Ministry had arrived here. Owing to the nature of the affair, it is this functionary who treats officially with the Grand Duke. But in what way could the Luxembourg President assure himself of the sentiments of the other Powers as to an eventual cession of Luxembourg? If Dutch diplomacy, although not even in a semi-official manner, lent itself to the inquiry, did it not by so doing interfere, perhaps to a greater extent than the Government desired, in Luxembourg affairs? This question made me desirous of being placed in a position to dissipate some of the mystery and to bring the matter forward into full light. I believe it is best to enter upon a large and loyal course, and for this reason I offered my services as intermediary to arrive at negotiations. And I am now of opinion that this very fact constitutes precisely the proof that we did not originate the affair. In the official note that was written upon this subject I pointed out that the Government of the Netherlands considered itself as relieved from all responsibility as to what might take place with regard to Luxembourg; that it rejected all other responsibility, and desired to offer itself as intermediary. In forwarding this despatch, the Government understood very well and was convinced that it would receive a negative reply; but the note fulfilled its object—viz., of releasing the Government of the Netherlands from all responsibility, as was acknowledged by the Prussian Government in its answer, and it results, therefore, that when negotiations shall take place the matter will exclusively concern the Grand Duke. The hon. member has said that Holland has no interest in the Luxembourg question. I accept that declaration upon one condition—viz., that the condition of Limburg may be suitably and completely regulated. It is, therefore, with great pleasure I announce that the declaration of Limburg being detached from all ties is now given. In the interest of a good understanding between Holland and France and Holland and Prussia, I insisted to the Prussian Government upon the removal of all the grievances that might be deduced

from the position of Limburg, and I am happy to say that the Prussian Government has given the most explicit assurance in this respect.

Count van Zuylen read a note from Count Bismarck stating that after the settlement of German territory made by the Parliament Limburg was released from all ties to Germany.

I trust (concluded the Minister) that I have made the object of the Dutch Government plainly understood. As a matter of course, I may now abandon the question to the representative of the grand duchy, who is now here. Now that I have acquired the certainty that the Limburg affair is settled, I may add that I shall not occupy myself any more with Luxembourg either officially or semi-officially.

THE OPENING OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

THE opening of the Paris Universal Exhibition, last week, was an event of no common character, although, as we have already stated, there was no ceremony or pageant of any kind—no addresses or replies, no official costumes. The Emperor and Empress merely visited the building, walked round the most presentable parts of it, spoke a few words to the representatives of the various foreign commissions, who wore evening dress in honour of the occasion, and left as they came, in their open carriages. It was little more than a mere formal visit, except that the building was cleaner, and certainly much emptier, than it has often been before. With the exception of those of Russia, England, Sweden, and perhaps, also, Denmark, absolutely none of the exhibitors were prepared. By far the greater part of the French side was not only unfurnished, but even unfinished. Austria and Prussia were quite as bad. Italy had only just got her packing cases in; while Spain, Portugal, Turkey, and a mass of smaller States, had scarcely got a case into the whole building at all. By far the great majority of the foreign commissions simply contented themselves with closing their entrances and affixing the notice, "*Entrée interdite*;" for not only were the courts themselves unfinished, but even the small number of the goods which had yet arrived were not unpacked. With such a state of things, of course anything like a ceremonial was out of the question. Even for the Emperor and Empress themselves it would have been impossible to clear a fair passage through the mass of bales which, in heavy stacks, like piles of rough deals, cumbered the spaces reserved for most foreign nations.

The mere unceremonious opening created very little stir in Paris, and the approaches to the building were never less crowded. A few patrols of cavalry were there to keep the carriage-ways clear and see that everything kept "moving on;" but beyond this there was very little unusual. Along the road leading from the Pont de Jéna, where the Emperor and Empress were to pass, there were thick groups of people; but by the Pont de l'Alma, one of the main entrances into the building, the footways were almost deserted compared with what they had been when admissions were hitherto given freely. By the road leading from the Ecole Militaire a very handsomely draped avenue had been hung across between lofty flagstaffs, and this entrance was well filled with spectators. It gave access to the hall or vestibule in which their Imperial Majesties were to alight. Beyond these preparations there was not very much to distinguish the formal opening from other days. The main avenues through which the Emperor and Empress were to pass were kept railled off, but beyond this very little difference was made. In the English machinery court a few of the easiest-moved machines were kept going in spite of an accident to one of the steam-pipes, and in the French section also a few of the smallest engines were set to work; but beyond this there was nothing in motion or even very much arranged. Most of the visitors went to the picture galleries, through which their Majesties were to pass after making the circuit of the machinery annexe. The English and Russian courts, with most of the picture-galleries, were fully open; and the glass courts, and those of Sevres, and a few others of less importance on the French side, were also ready, and nearly quite arranged; so also were some sections illustrative of the history of industrial works of art of all periods completed on the French quarter; but little more than this can be said.

Two o'clock was the hour fixed for the arrival of the Imperial family; and almost to the very second the Emperor and Empress alighted at the entrance of the vestibule. They came to the building in the private style in which they, as a rule, drive about Paris, in an open carriage and four. Following that of the Emperor were the carriages of the chief members of the Corps Diplomatique, M. Rouher, M. Arles Dufour, Count Walewski the Prince of Orange, the Count of Flanders, and Baron James Rothschild. The Prince Imperial was not with their Majesties, as his health is not yet sufficiently re-established to allow him to take even a formal part in any public ceremony. Everywhere the Imperial cortège was received with marks of the most profound deference and respect, but there was very little cheering. A few stray cries of "*Vive l'Empereur*" were raised at times; but, as a rule, the French do not cheer; and the carriages moved on amid the waving of handkerchiefs and uncovered heads only.

At the vestibule their Majesties were received by M. Le Play and the other members of the Imperial Commission, and almost instantly ascended the staircase which led to the raised gallery running round the machinery annexe, or rather circle. The Emperor wore plain evening dress, with the grand cordon and star of the Légion d'Honneur. The Empress was attired in the simplest of walking-costumes, and wore a dark veil, which she never raised while in the building. The course of the Imperial party through the Exhibition may easily be followed. The building is arranged in a series of concentric rings or galleries, each of which is devoted to a certain class of subjects. Thus the outermost ring of all is allotted to the display of machinery, at rest and in motion, while one of the innermost rings forms a succession of picture-galleries. The Emperor and his party went round the edifice twice—namely, in those two rings which may be said to represent all that is most fine and all that is most useful in the arts. Entering at any door of the building the visitor will at once find himself in the midst of machinery, but the arrangement at the chief door of all is such that on the one hand he will find the French and on the other the British show. Down, indeed, the whole length of the great hall, which leads from the chief doorway to the central garden and cuts a passage through the concentric galleries, the same arrangement holds. Turn to the left and go into any gallery, you find yourself in France; follow it in its course round the building, and you pass through a succession of countries until at last when you complete the circle you find yourself among the products of Great Britain. The gallery set apart for machinery has a peculiarity; it has a raised, continuous gangway from end to end that goes over all the machines, so that a visitor can see them from above. Arm-in-arm, the Emperor and Empress ascended the gangway on the French side, the Imperial Commissioners preceding them. Crowds collected among the machines below to see them as they passed; and at various recesses along the gallery bands of regiments were ready to strike up the national air as they came in sight—the bandmasters gesticulating in all a Frenchman's anxiety that the first combination of notes should come not one moment too late, not one moment too soon. At fixed points along the gangway the Emperor came upon the commissioners of the various countries, who were presented to him and to the Empress. In passing over the French section of the gallery, their Majesties had the satisfaction of seeing a considerable number of the machines in motion; but they could scarcely find a similar proficiency in any other region of the department until they came to the British end of the gallery, where the roar of machinery might again be heard, mingling this time with loud English cheers.

The procession along this gallery took about three quarters of an hour. The Emperor and the Empress stayed longest with a little party of Japanese, most of whom, to the barbarian eyes of any Londoner, would seem identical with the troop of jugglers who lately performed the butterfly trick in St. Martin's Hall. They were, however, Commissioners from the Tycoon and from Prince Satsuma, and were presented to the Emperor and Empress with a good deal of formality. Opposite to them, on the gangway, were ranged a small band of gaily-dressed Tunisian musicians, who played on a sort of hurdy-gurdy and on a tambourine. It was a little bit of comedy introduced into a rather dull ceremonial. On the one side of

the platform, in dark, solemn robes, the Japanese were bending with the most awful gravity, some of them reverently falling on their knees to the Empress; on the other side, in the gayest of dresses and with the jauntiest air, the Tunisian musicians seemed to make mirth of the sombre Japanese with a jingle, jingle, jingle. The Emperor looked from one side to the other, perplexed whether he was to be grave with the Japanese or merry with the Tunisians. He did his best to be courteous to both, and so passed on to the American Commissioners, and, finally, to those of England, stationed at the end of the circle. As he descended the staircase he was greeted with loud hurrahs which one rarely hears out of England.

Along the gangway of the machinery department the procession was comparatively quiet and orderly, for few persons were admitted to it; but when the Imperial party descended to the Great Hall of Entrance and proceeded to the picture-galleries the spirit of the scene changed. Before the Emperor and his party all was clear and stately to make his passage free. Behind him was the deluge. The crowd rushed and crushed into galleries which had hitherto been denied to their view. The immense footmen in green livery who followed the Emperor were seen agonising in the mob which swayed to and fro—an enormous confusion of ladies and gentlemen, and policemen, and soldiers, and three glittering Turks, and one white-headed negro. The Emperor passed through a magnificent show of pictures and marbles. The picture-galleries, with the exception of the Italian section, may be described as complete. In the Italian gallery, only the pictures on the line are fixed. In the British as in the French gallery, everything is ready; and in each of these great saloons hundreds of persons were ranged in double lines, waiting for the Emperor to pass. He came into the British territory about half-past three, preceded by the Imperial Commission. The only incidents of his progress through the room are two. According to the style of Royal personages, the Emperor selects one picture for remark. It is a portrait of the Prince of Wales—a good portrait, though nothing very remarkable as a picture—by Watson Gordon, of the Prince when he was at Oxford. His Majesty points it out to the Empress, and passes on. Mr. Cole immediately afterwards presents him with a complete catalogue, printed in four languages, of the whole of the British department of the Exhibition—a department which has something to boast of in being the most punctual of all.

From this point a visit was made down the Rue de Russie, and thence into the central garden, over the surface of which an immense number of plants had been stuck in the ground the night before, and which then looked by no means the better for their translation. On this picture, however, their Majesties did not dwell, nor did they traverse more of the building, but, avoiding the routes which led to the tiers of packing-cases and unfinished Courts, came back at once to the hall or vestibule, and so on across the park into the Imperial Pavilion, where refreshments were served.

In anticipation of the great crowd which was expected to visit the Exhibition on Monday, an official notification was issued as to the terms of admission, which will now continue to the close. For a single visit the price will be 1*fr.*, with an extra 50*c.* during the earlier hours of the morning, from nine to eleven, but for a weekly ticket the charge will be 6*fr.* This ticket gives the owner free

admission at all hours and to all parts of the park, palace, and garden, and also to those places for which a small extra charge is made. Every person who wishes to take a weekly ticket must be provided with his portrait in the carte de visite form, and on this, leaving clear the head, the ticket will be gummed before delivery. It is announced that excursion-trains are about to commence running to Paris on all the great lines of railway. The first will be by the Bordeaux line, and will start on the 19th inst. The passengers will stay a week. Perhaps also that industrial class known as the English pickpocket may also arrive in greater numbers as the season goes on, though their trade will be much spoiled by the activity of

the French police, who seem to have an especial spite against the unfortunate tribe, and have already announced that robberies are increasing. Losses of canes, hats, and great-coats from cafés are frequent, and these petty depredations are stated to be committed with extraordinary boldness.

ST. ANDREW'S, HAVERSTOCK-HILL.

THE Church of St. Andrew, Haverstock-hill, which was consecrated on Thursday, Nov. 22, 1866, is of peculiar construction, and has been designed to afford full, open space under one roof, rather than a central and two subordinate spaces, such as we usually see in the nave and aisle arrangement of churches; not that this church is altogether without aisles, but they are reduced to mere passageways to the seats of the great nave and the two transepts, which are shallow, and fitted up with children's seats only. The organ also is placed in the north transept. The result is a greater magnificence than usual in the clerestory, with a very picturesque arcade beneath it of small aisle and larger transept arches; and, although the building is not high, this arrangement gives an apparent height which takes off entirely the notion of a roof of too wide a span or too low. The trusses of the roof are also, though few, peculiarly dignified in their size and span; and, as the other timbers are boarded underneath, they do not want in simplicity, though enriched with perforated boarding, &c. For the sound of music and preaching nothing could be better, and, we may add, for comfortable warmth also; for, although the church is well-fitted with Perritt's warming apparatus, it could not be so sufficiently heated by such small means unless the building were of this construction.

The accommodation afforded is for 840 sittings, and provision is made for additional sittings in a western gallery, to be built if they should be required.

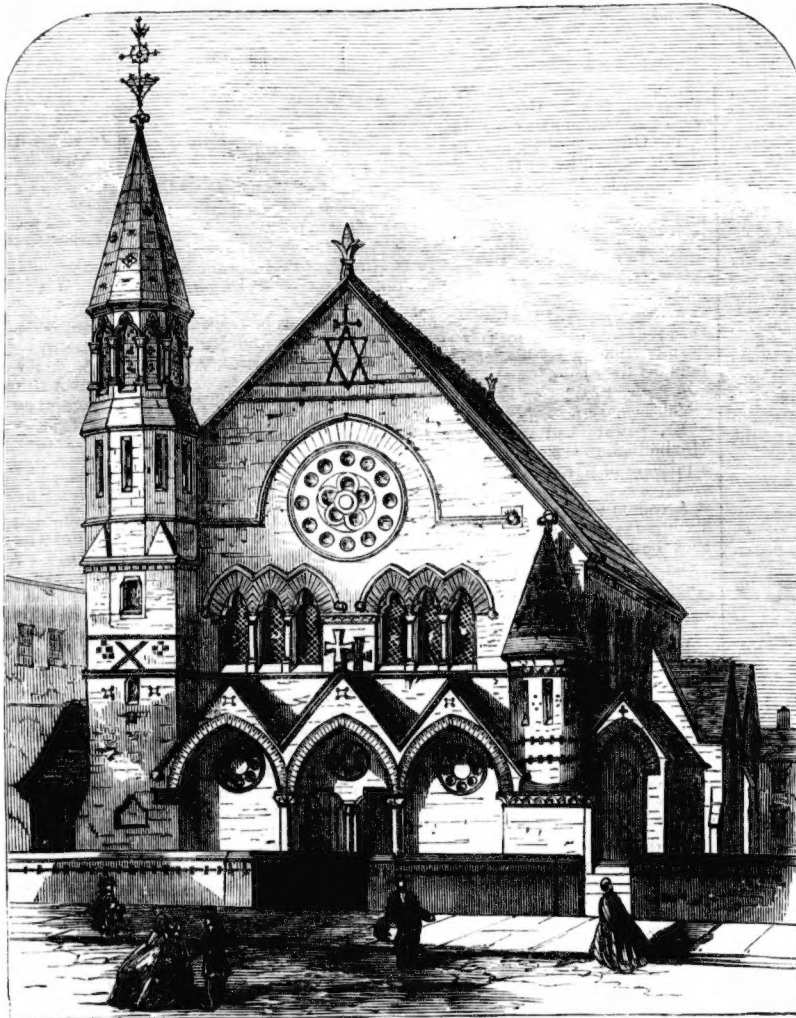
The general dimensions are 88 ft. long, without the chancel, by 40 ft. wide, including piers, with aisles 6 ft. wide each. The height is about 40 ft. Three arches form the chief porch; but there are others north and south, besides doors at the east end. A turret, with bell, is placed at the north side of the western elevation.

Our view shows the chancel arch, which is carried on two Plymouth marble columns. The pulpit and reading-desk are of Plymouth marble and Caen stone, which flank each side and the interior generally. At the west end is a well-designed but simple font, of Plymouth marble, executed by Messrs. Tucker and Ross. The general contractors were Messrs. Dove Brothers; Mr. Cowdron was the clerk of works; and the architect is Mr. Charles Forster Hayward, F.S.A. (Fellow and honorary secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects), of 20, Montague-street, Russell-square.

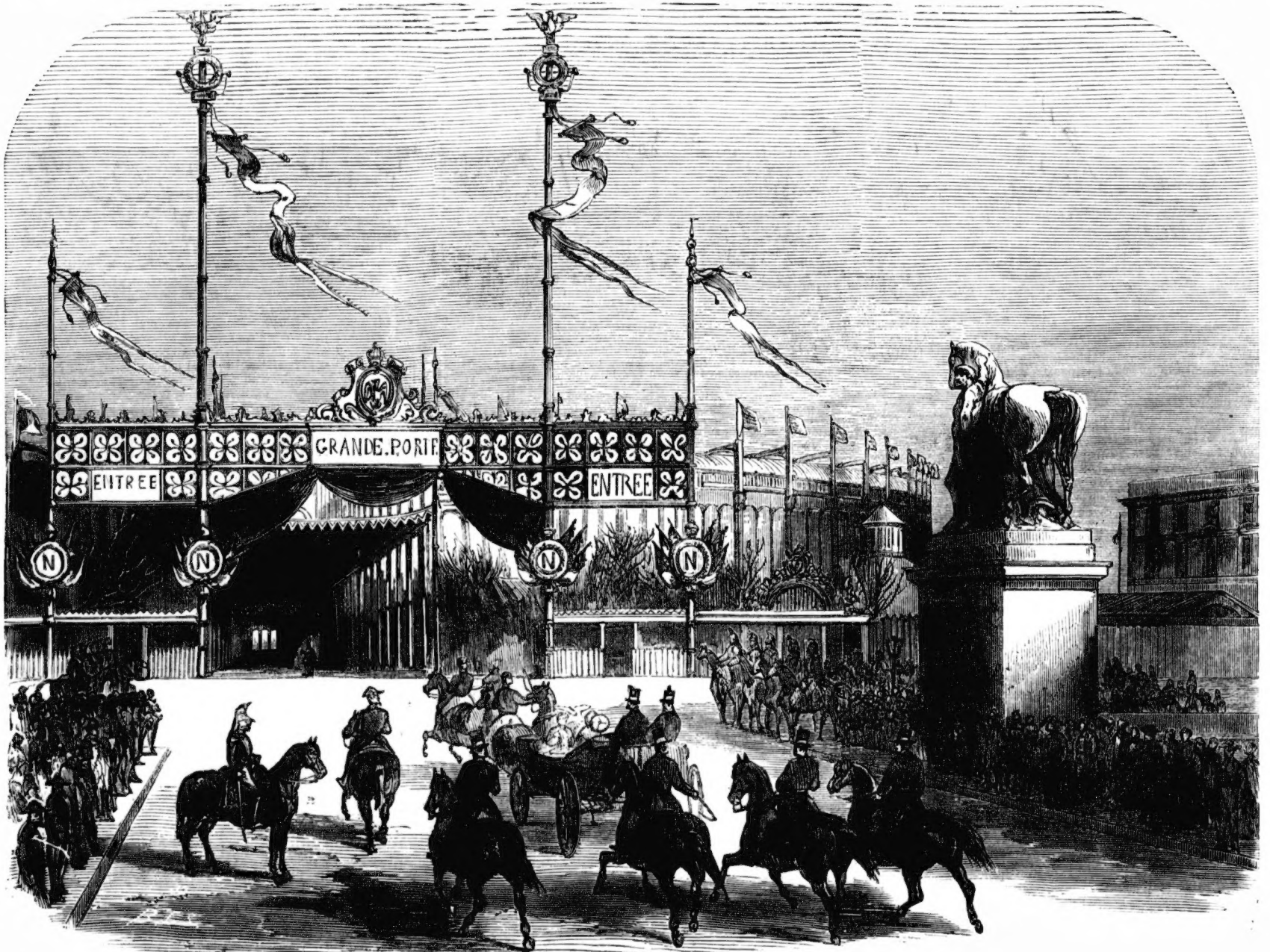
The church is entirely the gift of an anonymous donor, through the Bishop of London's fund, and cost £4500. An additional special donation, providing for the font, pulpit, desk, &c., is not reckoned in the above.

The lighting is by gas standards against the wall, executed by Messrs. Stode, from the architect's designs.

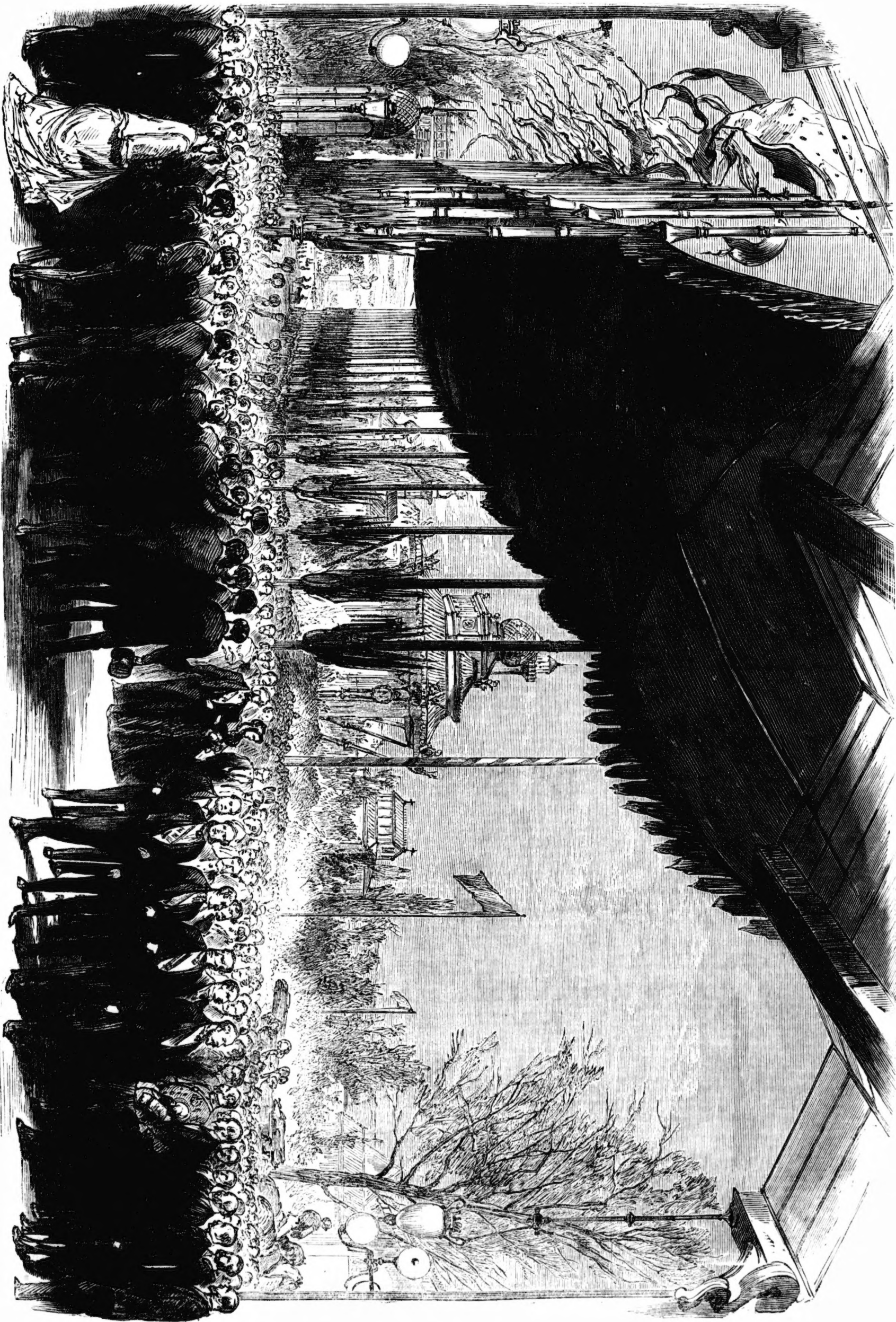
The Incumbent is the Rev. H. J. Carter Smith; and the first stone was laid by Lord Ebury in January, 1865.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, HAVERSTOCK-HILL.—(C. F. HAYWARD, ESQ., ARCHITECT.)



OPENING OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION: ARRIVAL OF THE EMPEROR AT THE PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE ON THE QUAY D'ORSAY.



RECEPTION OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS UNDER THE CANOPY AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE GRAND VESTIBULE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 299. PREPARING FOR THE FIGHT.

It has been known for some time past that the leader of the Liberal party—having been prevented by his followers from fighting the Reform Bill on the second reading—would muster his forces and do battle on the question that "the Speaker do leave the chair;" or, in other words, on going into Committee on the bill. And it was thought for a time that an amendment would be moved—form of amendment not given. On Friday last week, however, there was a meeting of the Liberals held at Mr. Gladstone's house—meeting to decide on the mode of procedure, and to induce the Liberals to close their ranks and to march in hostile array against their enemies. There were present at this meeting about 250. Two hundred and fifty-eight was, it is said, the exact number; a large number, no doubt; but ominously small when it is considered that the Liberal party consists nominally of about 350. What did this mean, men asked one another in whispers? Is there some division in the camp? This was on Friday morning; and in the evening of the day it became more clearly known that there was disunion in the Liberal ranks—disunion that might rise, if it had not already risen, to mutiny, and produce serious results. But we anticipate. At this meeting it was resolved that, instead of an amendment, an "instruction" should be moved; and, as it is our duty to explain Parliamentary rules and modes of procedure, we will show our readers why an "instruction" was adopted instead of an amendment.

AN INSTRUCTION.

A Committee on a bill can only consider matter which is relevant to the bill, unless it be instructed by the House to take matters not relevant into consideration. Thus it would seem that a Committee on a bill for taxing dogs could not, without instruction, consider the propriety of taxing cats. Mr. Gladstone's proposal, which, no doubt, all our readers have seen, was not, it is said, relevant to the bill; and the consideration of it was, as the lawyers say, *ultra vires* of the Committee—that is to say, could not be considered by the Committee without a special instruction from the House to consider it. And this was convenient to Mr. Gladstone; for, if he had determined to submit an amendment upon the question that Mr. Speaker do leave the chair, his amendment would have been placed at the bottom of a long list of notices already upon the paper, the negating of either of which, as our Lounger showed last week, would have put out the proposal of his. But an instruction takes precedence of all amendments, for an instruction is moved when the clerk calls out the orders of the day—to wit, in this case, "Representation of the People Bill—Committee;" whereas amendments are put after the Speaker has put the question "That I do now leave the chair."

WHO IS TO MOVE IT?

Thus, then, the question was settled. An "instruction" was to be moved; but Mr. Gladstone was not to move it—albeit he is the acknowledged leader of the party. The philosophy of this is obvious. This was to be, or looked like, a fight for place, and it was deemed to be better policy that an independent member should on such an occasion lead the party rather than one who would certainly take high office if the assault should be successful. Thus, reader, you see, we keep up the outward show of disinterestedness, though it may be only outward show. Adhere to the form, albeit there may be no reality. Far be it, though, from us to say that Gladstone has any inordinate desire for office; and, moreover, we highly approve of this etiquette. Mr. Coleridge, then, was chosen to lead on this occasion. It is said that Mr. Coleridge is ambitious for office, and no doubt he is; all lawyers in Parliament are; and, when the Liberals get into power again, in all probability, if the way can be cleared by a translation of Sir Robert Collier to the judicial bench, Mr. Coleridge will be Solicitor-General. But Mr. Coleridge has at present held no office. He sits below the gangway, as an independent member, and has, moreover, already, though he is but a young member of Parliament, made for himself a very good position. And, then, how eloquent he is! Not robustly eloquent; on the contrary, his eloquence is as softly flowing as a summer brook. Indeed, he can hardly be deemed exactly the man to lead the hosts to battle in such a war as this. But then it must be remembered that he was not to be the real commander. Gladstone must have been the real leader—all etiquette notwithstanding. We can introduce, then, gauzy fiction, but we cannot make fictitious facts. But, on the whole, we may concede that the choice of Coleridge for this work was a very good arrangement.

MR. COLERIDGE.

At all events, we said to ourselves, we shall have an eloquent speech from Mr. Coleridge—not a strong, vigorous, robust speech, but a quiet, silver-toned, harmonious, elegant speech, like a beautiful andante by way of prelude to a rattling overture. There was not long ago another Coleridge, much read, much talked about, and much admired, for a time; and he, too, was a beautiful speaker, fascinating everybody who listened to him; but he was not a vigorous thinker. He never seemed to be walking on firm ground, but rather in the air than on the earth. He seemed always looking out for some razor-edged *via media*, in which nobody but he, if even he, could track. Carlyle profanely called his philosophy Coleridgean moonshine. Well, there is something of the same kind in our Coleridge's speeches, and political, and we may say, religious philosophy, as we thought we noted whilst listening to his speeches on Oxford University reform. But still he is a beautiful speaker, and we anticipated great pleasure at listening to him on that Monday evening as we walked down to the House. He has had plenty of time to prepare, we said. It is a great occasion. There is a glittering prize before him; and, no doubt, he will do himself justice.

MUTINY IN THE LIBERAL CAMP.

But it was not to be. No; alas, it was not to be! That ominous minority of Liberals who stayed away from Gladstone's meeting had at the last moment interfered, we found when we got down to the House, and the fight was off. At the last moment, we have said, and said truly, for it was only a very short time before the House met that the mutineers assembled in the tea-room of the House to organise their mutiny, and only just before Mr. Speaker arrived that the success of the meeting was made known. What was said by the conclave assembled in this new Liberal cave we have no means of knowing; but what was done, and what resulted from what was done, all the world now knows. It was resolved that the latter part of Gladstone's instruction could not be supported. It was further resolved that Gladstone should be asked to abandon this part, and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be asked to accept the former. What the part to be abandoned was we need not say. The part selected to remain is this—"That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to alter the law of rating." This proposition Gladstone had to consent to. How could he do otherwise with defeat staring him in the face? Fifty mutineers going over to the other side would make a hundred in a division. Poor man! His policy we meddle not with here, but everybody must pity him. The mortification which he felt when he was thus, on the eve of battle, compelled by his own crew to haul down his flag and submit to the enemy, must have been very poignant. He looked mortified as he entered the House and when he was in his seat opposite the Government. The iron had entered his soul; and so sensitive as he is, and so utterly unable to repress the expression of his feelings as he is, no wonder that he showed what he felt. But, courage, Sir! Be of good cheer, "Nor bate one jot of heart or hope, but steer right forward." Be sure that organised hypocrisy, opposed, cannot long hold together. It is rickety already. If your party is disunited, so is your opponent's, as we shall yet see before the bill gets through Committee. Disraeli accepted the mutilated instruction, of course, joyfully. But let not him who puts his armour on boast like him who takes it off. Sagacious men think they see in this instruction, mutilated as it is, the seeds of destruction to the measure; or of its amendment so that it shall be acceptable to all the members of the Opposition—but not to its author.

THE FIGHT OFF.

Long before the Speaker came in to prayers the House was well-nigh full, all expecting a long night and an angry debate, for as yet there had come to us no hint of the fight going off. But presently there was a rumour floating about. At first the rumour was but indefinite, and had only partially percolated the crowd; but about ten minutes before Mr. Speaker was due certain of the mutineers themselves rushed in and confirmed the rumour. And straightway there was a commotion like that of the sea when suddenly a gale bursts forth. Members left their places and crowded the floor; others in knots on the benches were laying their heads together; and a clatter of excited talk filled the building. Nobody, or but very few, went out, of course, for, having taken your seat, if you go out before prayers, you are in danger of losing it. "You have put your card in the rack." Yes; but the watchful doorkeeper is pacing the floor, and if he sees a vacant seat thus marked he must, according to peremptory orders, take the card away. No prayer, no seat. The prayer is the price paid for a seat, as one irreverently said. When the Speaker was on his way the commotion was at its height; but, suddenly, the doorkeeper shouted, "Mr. Speaker!" and at once the members on the floor rushed to their seats; all rose when Mr. Speaker appeared, and for a space nothing was heard but the solemn tones of the Chaplain invoking a blessing on the evening's work.

COLERIDGE'S DISCOMFITURE AND DISRAELI'S TRIUMPH.

As soon as prayers, which last about four minutes, were over, a crowd of members—their seats, the due price having been paid, being now secure—rushed out of the House to hear and discuss the news, and the outer lobby was for a time like a Bourse when prices are buoyant, or some grand intelligence is expected; but as soon as the private business was over the tide turned, and again the members rushed to their places, for now the critical moment was coming when Mr. Coleridge was to rise and perform the obsequies over his unfortunate "instruction." It was a sad and melancholy duty. He had come to sound the trumpet of war; but now, alas! he had to surrender to the enemy. He had got up an elaborate speech, with facts all arranged, arguments all thought out, and sentences all pointed and polished with the nicest art; but now he could only utter a few extempore words, pocket his speech, and retire. Can anything more mortifying be imagined? Before Coleridge spoke, Mr. John Locke rose to ask whether Mr. Disraeli would accept the mutilated instruction. Accept it? Of course he would. Disraeli was evidently in the most joyous mood when he replied to Mr. Locke. And well he might be; for, had he not once more checkmated his formidable opponent? That morning he expected to have to fight a stern battle; now his enemies are submissive at his feet. His followers, of course, were wild with delight; they laughed consumedly; they cheered to the echo. The appearance of the House whilst their victorious leader was speaking was striking to the indifferent looker-on—the Conservatives wild with joy; the Liberals beaten, discomfited, and silent. But this is not the last scene in this eventful history. All this may yet be reversed "after Easter."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY withdrew the Clerical Vestments Bill, and substituted for it another measure which, he said, only differed in arrangement and a few verbal alterations. The Duke of BUCKINGHAM stated, in answer to an inquiry of Lord Redesdale, that the Easter recess would commence on Friday next. Several bills were advanced a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TIPPERARY ELECTION.

Sir P. EGERTON, chairman of the Tipperary Election Committee, reported that they had found Mr. C. White duly elected for that county, and that it had been proved that previous to the election divers of the Roman Catholic clergy had exercised an influence upon their congregations in a manner that was calculated to prejudice the free choice of the electors, but that such conduct did not, in the opinion of the Committee, amount to the offence of undue influence "as defined by law."

THE REFORM BILL.

Mr. T. D. ACLAND, in the absence of Mr. Coleridge, gave notice that on reading the order of the day for the Committee on the Representation of the People Bill his hon. friend would move that it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to alter the laws of rating, and to provide that in every Parliamentary borough the occupiers of tenements below a given rateable value be relieved from liability to personal rating with a view to fix a line for the borough franchise at or above which all occupiers shall be entered on the rate-book, and shall have equal facilities for the enjoyment of such franchise as a residential occupation franchise. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated, in reply to Mr. Synan, that he should proceed in Committee on the Reform Bill with the clause relating to the use of voting-papers; and he hoped it would be adopted for Ireland, where he believed its working would be very advantageous.

THE EDUCATION GRANT.

On the order for Supply, Mr. LOWE once more ventilated the education question, and asked the House to agree to a motion dissenting from so much of the Minute of Council as provides for an increase of the grants now made to primary schools. The Minute was defended by Mr. Corry and Mr. Henley, and the discussion was prolonged by Mr. Powell, Mr. H. Bruce, Mr. Pugh, and Mr. Haddfield. The mover, calling for a division, was accompanied to the lobby by 40 members, the number for the negative being 203; consequently the motion was lost by a majority of 163.

MONDAY, APRIL 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

There was a conversation in reference to the relations between England and Spain. The Earl of MALMESBURY appealed to the Marquis of Clanricarde to postpone his motion as to the Tornado until after Easter, on the ground that no reply had yet been received to Lord Stanley's last despatch to the Spanish Government. The Marquis of Clanricarde acceded.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

Lord STANLEY, replying to Mr. Osborne, said he had not yet received any communication from the Spanish Government in answer to his last despatch to the British Minister at Madrid relative to the seizure of the Queen Victoria.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH inquired whether there was any truth in the rumour that a fleet had been ordered to Malta, with sealed orders, presumed to be for the coast of Spain.

Lord STANLEY replied that Malta was an ordinary cruising-ground, and that the sending of a few extra ships thither was no unusual circumstance, and if the hon. gentleman wished to know what were the orders given to the Mediterranean fleet he must decline answering the question.

THE REFORM BILL.

Mr. LOCKE asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in case Mr. Coleridge confined the instruction which he proposed should be given to the Committee on the Reform Bill to the first part of the motion, namely, "That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to alter the law of rating," and struck out all the rest relating to the "line" at which the borough franchise should be drawn, whether the Government would be prepared to accept the instruction in that limited form.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed that it was highly inconvenient to have to answer hypothetical questions; he would therefore ask the hon. member whether he had any authority for stating that the latter part of the instruction would be left out.

Mr. LOCKE thought he might say that would be the case, and it was upon that understanding he had put the question.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER presumed that the hon. member would not have made the statement without authority; but it would have been a little more Parliamentary, he thought, if the author of the instruction himself had informed the House what were his intentions. With regard to the latter part of the instruction, for his own individual sake, he much regretted that the House was to be deprived of the advantage of the speech of Mr. Coleridge, because he had been unable, with all the study he could give to the matter, to discover that it had any definite meaning. As to the first part of the instruction, all he could say was that Government had always been under the impression that the Committee had power to alter the law of rating. No "pressure," therefore, was required, however "gentle;" and he thought it would be much for the convenience of the Committee if that part of the instruction were adopted. For the information of members, he might add that on Friday he should move that the House, at its rising, should adjourn for the Easter recess until Monday, the 29th inst.

The motion for going into Committee on the Representation of the People Bill was then put, and

Mr. COLERIDGE said that, finding Ministers were not unwilling to accept the first part of the instruction, he should merely move "that it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to alter the law of rating."

Mr. LOCKE seconded the motion, which was then put from the chair and agreed to *sub silentio*.

A motion of Sir R. KNIGHTLEY, as a further instruction to the Committee, that they have power to make provision for the better prevention of bribery and corruption at elections, was withdrawn on the announcement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that it was the intention of the Government to deal with that subject in a separate measure, and that a bill was already prepared for the purpose, and would be introduced on Thursday.

Mr. HAYTER moved a resolution to the effect that all Parliamentary boroughs having a less population than 10,000, and from which the second seat be taken, shall be increased by adding either from the immediately surrounding district or from one or more neighbouring boroughs or towns, a sufficient number of inhabitants to give to every such Parliamentary borough a population of not less than 10,000 persons.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER objected to the motion that it could not be adopted without going a great way towards the establishment of electoral districts, which he was most anxious to avoid. The motion was then negatived without a division.

Mr. GORST, for the purpose of giving hon. members who were anxious to express their opinions on the general question an opportunity of doing so, moved the adjournment of the debate. Thereupon the House was addressed by Mr. B. Osborne, Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Allen, Mr. B. Hope, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. M. Chambers.

At a quarter to nine o'clock the motion for adjourning the debate was put and negatived, and the question that the Speaker should leave the chair carried amid loud cheers.

The House then went into Committee *pro forma*, but immediately resumed, and the chairman obtained leave to sit again on Thursday.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Tenure on Land (Ireland) Bill of the Marquis of Clanricarde was read the second time, after some observations from Viscount Monck and the Earl of Malmesbury, and upon the understanding that it was to be taken without prejudice to the principle of the Ministerial measure on the same subject now before the House.

The Marquis of WESTMEATH called attention to the prevalence of Ritualistic practices in the Church of England; and, in view of the possibility of a Royal Commission of inquiry being issued, contended that it would not be entitled to confidence if several of the Bishops, and especially the Bishops of Oxford and Salisbury, were members of it.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH complained of the unfairness of the course pursued by the noble Marquis in bringing forward this question when he must have known that the Bishop of Oxford was engaged on his confirmation tour. Moreover, the noble Marquis had acted upon partial and private information.

The Marquis of WESTMEATH excused himself for acting with some precipitation by saying that he was apprehensive lest a Royal Commission should be issued in the meantime.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SIR MORTON PETO and THE LORDS, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY. Sir S. M. PETO moved the resolution of which he had given notice, praying for a Committee to inquire into the manner in which funds had been raised for the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway. His object was to demonstrate that he was innocent of charges which had been preferred against him.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the motion on the ground that the House could not enter upon investigations of such a character. He spoke in terms of eulogy of Sir S. M. Peto.

Mr. WHATMAN had a notice on the paper of an amendment calling for an inquiry into the manner in which Mr. T. Baring, Mr. Freshfield, and Sir S. M. Peto had been concerned in raising money for the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. This amendment he wished to withdraw; and a short, angry discussion took place, in which Mr. Baring and Mr. Freshfield not only vindicated themselves, but found others who bore testimony to their uprightness.

In the course of the discussion, Mr. GLADSTONE indorsed the eulogy of Sir S. M. Peto by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Finally, the motion was withdrawn.

REFORM BILL FOR IRELAND.

Colonel FRENCH obtained leave to bring in a Reform Bill for Ireland. It proposes to reduce the county franchise from £12 to £8, and the borough franchise to £4. No borough is to be disfranchised, but all boroughs with less than 1000 electors are to have other boroughs grouped with them.

BRIBERY AND UNDU INFLUENCE.

The House went into a long discussion in reference to bribery at Totnes and the influence of the Duke of Somerset there. Sir L. FALK introduced the question, and went at some length into the report of the bribery Commissioners, with a view of showing that the Duke of Somerset, by himself and his agent, had been guilty of the greatest possible intimidation. The details were not of a savoury character.—Mr. A. SEYMOUR, the sole remaining member for Totnes, defended himself something in the *tu quoque* style; and Sir R. PALMER entered upon an elaborate defence of the Duke of Somerset, who, he contended, had never been guilty of either bribery or intimidation. Several other members took part in the discussion, but nothing came of it.

At a later period of the evening Mr. HUNT moved for leave to bring in the Government bill for the better prevention of bribery and corrupt practices at elections. Some surprise was expressed that this was not done by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that no explanations of the character of the bill were given.—Sir S. NORTHCOTE made some explanations on this subject, and the bill was brought in and read the first time.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MINES, WOODLANDS, &C., BILL.

The Mines Assessment Bill was read the second time and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

OXFORD TESTS ABOLITION BILL.

A lengthy and interesting discussion took place in reference to the Tests Abolition (Oxford) Bill. It was proposed by Professor FAWCETT to make the bill include the University of Cambridge, and, after a long debate, the proposal was adopted by 253 votes to 166. Subsequently the bill passed through Committee.

TRADES UNIONS.

The House next entered upon the discussion of Mr. Neate's bill for putting trades unions on the same basis as friendly societies. The Attorney-General opposed the bill, which was supported by Mr. T. Hughes and Mr. J. S. Mill. Mr. Barrow was speaking against the bill when, at a quarter to six o'clock, the debate was, in accordance with the standing orders, suspended.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Duke of RICHMOND moved the second reading of the Marine Mutiny Bill, which was agreed to; and the standing orders being suspended, the bill was put through its remaining stages and passed.

The Canada Railway Loan Bill was read the third time and passed. The other business before the House was of an unimportant nature.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

Earl GROSVEHOR moved the adjournment of the House, and suggested the adjournment of the debate on the Reform Bill till after the Easter recess. Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. DISRAELI both opposed the proposition, which, after some debate, was withdrawn.

Mr. DARBY GRIFFITH thought they ought to have the recess to consider the provisions of the bill before they attempted to vote upon it. The hon. gentleman criticised the various provisions of the bill amid much interruption and cries of "Agreed!" with the view of showing that the House had not sufficiently considered the subject to enable it to proceed with the bill.

The preamble was then postponed.

Clauses 1 and 2 were agreed to.

On clause 3 being proposed,

Mr. GLADSTONE said the amendment that he intended to ask the vote of the Committee upon did not affect the question of whether the tenant paid his taxes direct or through his landlord in the shape of rent. The first and paramount object was to pass a good reform bill, and the second was to pass it by the present Government. If they could not have the bill without the personal rating he deeply regretted it. The bill, as it was proposed, threw great delays in the way of the householders qualified by it coming upon the register. With regard to the number of householders under £10, the right hon. gentleman said there were at least three fourths of them who were compound householders. He maintained that the man who paid his rates to his landlord was as much a ratepayer as the man who paid his rates directly. The effect of the bill of the Government in populous towns, supposing it passed, would be that it would take out of the hands of the majority the power of determining elections and handing it over to the minority. The right hon. gentleman said he was anxious for the skilled workman who was obliged to walk three or four miles to his work, and who was compelled to change his residence. He thought that facilities should be given to those men who had to change their residence. In London there was scarcely any such thing as a household franchise in that class of people, because they were either lodgers or lodging-house keepers. It had been stated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had adopted the lodger franchise.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he had never said that he

would adopt the lodger franchise. What he said was that, if any well-considered plan was proposed, he would give it his most favourable consideration.

Mr. GLADSTONE considered that he had said that which was tantamount to it, and if he did accept the lodger franchise, then what became of his personal rating principle of the bill? He objected to the clauses proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer quite as strongly as the Government did to his amendments. Let him amend his mistake while there was time, and prevent that agitation that would ensue until the last vestige of such erroneous legislation was swept away.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL expressed his astonishment at the false issue raised by Mr. Gladstone, who wished to make it appear that while they were granting a boon with one hand they were passing a law to restrict it. He contended that the only real test of fitness was continuous payment of rates; but Mr. Gladstone's amendment, if carried, would bestow the franchise on every occupier of a house, whether he was rated or not, and whether he had or had not paid his rates.

Sir E. BULLER expressed his approval of the amendments the Government had laid on the table of the House.

The O'DONOGHUE supported the amendment of Mr. Gladstone.

Mr. KENDALL advised the Government to adhere to their amendment.

Sir W. HEATHCOTE condemned the Government proposal, but was not entirely satisfied with Mr. Gladstone's proposition.

Mr. HIBBERT opposed Mr. Gladstone's amendment.

Colonel BARTELOTT supported the Government proposition.

Mr. COLERIDGE regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should make this vote final with regard to the destiny of the bill. The bill, as framed, would not satisfy the country, and he viewed with sorrow its passing into law, especially when he looked at the determined yet painful attitude assumed by the working classes.

Mr. HENLEY said the Liberal party supported the amendment on different grounds. The true issue was not raised by the amendment. It was only framed to catch votes, and upon that ground must be rejected.

Lord CRANBOURNE supported the amendment of Mr. Gladstone.

Mr. ROBERTS moved the adjournment of the debate, and the other orders of the day were then dispensed of.

AMENDMENTS ON THE REFORM BILL.

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AS TO RATING.

The following enactments shall be made for the purpose of giving facilities to occupiers desirous of acquiring the franchise under this Act in respect of dwelling-houses in boroughs in which the owner is liable by Act of Parliament to be rated instead of the occupier:—

1. The full rateable value of every house in a borough, and the full rate in the pound, and the name of the occupier, shall be entered in the ratebook.

2. In every borough forms of claim to be used by an occupier desirous of being rated for the purpose of acquiring the franchise under this Act shall be obtainable, free of charge, at every post-office in the borough at which money orders are issued.

3. The form of claim shall have printed thereon the address of the overseers, and, when signed by the claimant, shall be transmitted free by post to the overseers.

4. On the receipt of any such claim the overseers shall return an answer stating the amount of rate, if any, due in respect of the premises.

5. The overseers, on the receipt of the claim and on the payment of the rate, if any then due, shall make an entry in the rate-book declaring the liability of the occupier to be rated and pay rates in respect of such house, and such occupier shall be liable accordingly, and the overseers shall give notice to the owner that the occupier has so claimed as aforesaid, and thenceforth the owner shall be discharged from his liability to be rated or pay any rate in respect of such house until the occupier makes default in payment of such rate as hereinafter mentioned.

6. Where the occupier of any dwelling-house that has been let to him free from rate claims to be rated, and to pay the rates for the purpose of acquiring the franchise under this Act, he may deduct from any rent due or accruing due from him to the owner any sum which the owner would have been liable to pay if the occupier had not paid the rates in pursuance of such claim as aforesaid.

7. Where the occupier of any house having claim to be rated and to pay rates as aforesaid in respect of a dwelling-house makes default in payment of the rates due from him, the overseers shall give notice of such default to the owner, and thereupon the liability of the owner to be rated and to pay rates in respect of such house shall revive in the same manner in all respects as if no claim had been made by the occupier; but the owner shall be entitled, if the occupier is liable under a contract with him to pay the rate, to compensate himself for the default so made by the occupier by adding to any rent due or accruing due from the occupier any sum which he as owner has thus become liable to pay on account of rate by reason of the default of the occupier, and shall have the same remedies for recovering the same as if it were not in arrear; but no notice shall be given to the owner by the overseers under this section of the default of the occupier until the overseers have served notice on the occupier stating their intention to apply to the owner for payment of the rate due and the occupier has made default in paying such rate for seven clear days after the receipt of such notice.

All expenses incurred by the overseers under this section shall be deemed to be expenses incurred in the registration of voters, and shall be allowed accordingly.

BY MR. GLADSTONE AND OTHERS.

Mr. Gladstone has given notice of the following amendments on the first clause of the Representation of the People Bill in Committee:—1. To reduce the occupancy from two years to one. 2. To make the qualifying tenements below £10 the same as above, not dwelling-houses merely. 3. To substitute a £5 rating franchise. 4. To place the occupier on the register, "whether he is person or his landlord be rated to the relief of the poor."

Mr. McCullagh Tonnens—Clause 3, page 2, line 8, after "occupation," insert "by him as tenant or owner."

Mr. Akroyd—Clause 6, line 40, after "not less than fifty pounds," insert "or in like manner hold shares, deposits, or debentures in respect of which he shall have paid not less than fifty pounds in any benefit building society, or in any industrial or provident society of which the rules shall have been certified by the registrar of friendly societies: provided, that in respect of his investment in any such benefit building, industrial, or provident society, he shall have received, during the two years immediately preceding the said first day of July, not less than forty shillings per annum."

Mr. Ponlett Scrope—To move the insertion of a clause to the effect that no occupier of a house below the rateable value of £4 shall hereafter be rated to the relief of the poor in respect of such occupation in any parish of England or Wales.

Sir Francis Crossley—That a member be given to the town of Keighley.

FUNERAL OF MR. C. H. BENNETT.—On Monday the remains of the lamented artist, Mr. Charles H. Bennett, were interred at Brompton Cemetery, a large number of his friends and colleagues attending the funeral, although the weather was such as might have been deemed an excuse with many for their absence from the ground. We have already stated that the death of this amiable and singularly-gifted draughtsman, at a period far short of middle age, has deprived a wife and a large family of young children of their chief worldly support. Among the persons who gathered on Monday round the grave Mr. Mark Lemon stood in the twofold capacity of a mourning friend and of a principal representative of *Punch*, in whose pages the busy pencil of Mr. Bennett had for some months been almost exclusively engaged.

POOR PICKINGS!—The following figures represent the amount of assets left by each of twenty Irish Bishops who died since 1822; but this sum does not include any real property the deceased may have purchased, nor any settlements he may have made on members of his family, nor any stock he may have transferred to avoid legacy duty, or possibly to avoid the fame of having died too rich for the Bishop of a poor Church:—

Name.	See.	Assets.	Name.	See.	Assets.
Broderick	Cashel	£80,000	Leslie	Kilmore	£40,000
Trench	Tuam	73,846	Butson	Killaloe	40,000
Alexander	Meath	73,000	Beresford	Killmore	36,000
J. G. Buresford	Armagh	70,000	Knox	Derry	27,692
Tottenham	Clogher	60,000	Plunket	Tuam	26,331
Loftus	Cashel	55,000	Stewart	Armagh	25,000
Lawrence	Raphoe	46,000	Singer	Meath	25,000
Bisset	Dublin	45,000	O'Beirne	Meath	20,000
Magee	Limerick	45,000	Kyle	Cork	20,000
Griffin	Dublin	40,000	Stopford	Meath	14,000
Whately	Dublin	40,000			

THE SMITHFIELD MEAT AND POULTRY MARKET.—There are engaged on the site of the intended market building an average per diem of seventy-seven workmen and nine two-horse carts. Within the last few weeks about 1000 cubic yards of earthwork have been removed. The recent inclement state of the weather, however, much impeded the progress of the works. Sufficient iron girders and columns have been delivered for covering one half of the market area, the greater portion of which are fixed in their places, and the delivery of columns and girders for the other half has commenced. A considerable portion of the brick arches upon the girders, which are intended to form the floor of the market, have also been executed. The basement walls for the four towers are in course of execution, and will be soon completed to the street level. For the superstructure several thousand feet of stonework are in course of preparation, and nearly ready for fixing; and many more thousand feet of stone are on the ground in the rear of the north side of King-street, where about sixty persons are at work, with the aid of the steam sawing mills. The contractors are rapidly perfecting all the patterns for the castings of all kinds, and many important points of details in various trades are in hand, so as to be ready for fixing as soon as the actual site is ready for them to commence. The first stone will be laid by the chairman of the committee, Mr. H. Lowman Taylor, early in the coming month. There will be no ceremonial; all that will be reserved for the opening day.—*City Press*.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1867.

PROSPECTS OF WAR.

IN the midst of peace we are threatened with war on all sides. There are now no less than three "questions" before the world, either all of which may demand a military solution. Our relations with Spain are at such a point that hostilities may be expected at any moment. It would be a painful thing to have to thrash such a country as Spain; but if the obstinacy of the Spanish Government continues there will be nothing left but to adopt that course. Our leanings towards peace are so well known that no one will suspect us of wantonly picking a quarrel with this miserable Power. Indeed, our great difficulty is to find a way out of the quarrel that has been forced upon us; and if any honourable mode of escape existed we should yet, no doubt, take advantage of it. Spain has had the misfortune, for some time past, of being governed by men who are really little better than political lunatics. Cabinet is replaced by Cabinet; but never, by any accident, does a wise man stumble into office. The arbitrary seizure of English vessels, and the illegal arrest and imprisonment of English sailors, are acts that not even a Spanish Minister can imagine will be passed over by this country with impunity. Yet one is at a loss to guess what advantage the Spaniards can hope to gain from war. A foreign war is no doubt a great allayer of domestic discord, provided always that there is some prospect of carrying it on with success. But Spaniards can scarcely flatter themselves that they would have the slightest chance of engaging successfully in a contest with England. If England had played her part in Europe and had sunk to the position of a second or third rate nation, it would be a very good idea on the part of Spain to go to war with her, on no matter what pretext in the hope of regaining possession of Gibraltar. But, as it is, the only effect upon Spain of such a struggle as she appears now to be contemplating would be to cripple her resources more than ever, and to hurry her on towards national bankruptcy—the goal which it seems to be the ambition of every Spanish Minister to attain. Oddly enough, one dispute with a first-rate Power does not seem to be enough for this most warlike country. She is doing her best to entangle herself in a quarrel with France. If we are to go to war at all with Spain, it would be a very desirable thing to have France for an ally. The notion of Spain fighting France and England together would be too absurd, and terms of peace would soon be dictated. A case of illegal arrest is at the bottom of the dispute with France, as of that with England.

The second "question" that may lead to war in Europe is that of Luxemburg. For the present this question is said to be settled; and it is evident that the first act of the drama is played out. But the fortress of Luxemburg will certainly not be allowed to remain in its present position. In the present day, when there is such a general tendency towards "agglomeration," it is not to be supposed that a duchy with 200,000 inhabitants will be allowed to remain independent between France and Prussia. Nor does it seem at all probable that the King of Holland will be allowed to retain it. Prussia has long meditated treating Luxemburg as she treated Holstein—that is to say, by the method of annexation; and, sooner or later, this German territory will, no doubt, form part of a united Germany. In the meanwhile, it is very difficult to find out what the Luxemburgers themselves think about the matter. They would like, no doubt, to continue in their present position—citizens of a German duchy, ruled by a Dutch Prince. But it may be looked upon as certain that they will be swallowed up by one or the other of its two powerful neighbours; and, while Germans maintain that they would like to be absorbed by Prussia, the French deny this assertion, and declare that all their sympathies are with France. The suggestion, made by some of the Luxemburgers themselves, that the fortress should be razed, seems a good one to mere lookers-on. But both Prussia and France want Luxemburg with the fortress; and Prussia, having possession of it, will not, we may be quite sure, go out of it unless forced to do so.

The Eastern question, which for the past quarter of a century has been a constant source of irritation in Europe, is now once more threatening the peace of the world. The Greeks of the kingdom have so long and so openly been helping the Candian insurgents that at last the Turks have lost all patience, and, according to the latest news, intend invading Greece. This, in all probability, is the very thing the revolutionists of the Turkish empire wish for. It would be the signal of a general rising in the Sultan's European provinces, and the healthiness of the alleged "sick man" would be tested very seriously indeed.

A REVOLUTION has taken place in Hayti, and President Geffrard has either fled or been deposed from office.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has conferred the honour of knighthood on Rear-Admiral Mangles Denham, F.R.S., and upon Mr. George Harvey, president of the Royal Scottish Academy.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES has signified her intention of becoming the patroness of the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, and has shown her interest in its welfare by contributing 30s. to its funds.

THE progress of the recovery of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was checked in the latter part of last week by the occurrence of a fresh attack of inflammation of the knee joint. The inflammation has now greatly subsided, and the general health of her Royal Highness, which was only slightly affected by the local change, is very satisfactory.

THE EMPRESS CHARLOTTE'S mental condition appears to give very little hope of recovery. From her features all intellectual expression is more and more vanishing.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has conferred on Mdm. Viardot-Garcia the fine arts' gold medal of Prussia; and this distinction, which is only given to eminent artists, was accompanied by a most flattering autograph letter from his Majesty.

THE CAESAREWITCH, with his young bride, will leave St. Petersburg early in May to be present at the celebration of the silver wedding of the King and Queen of Denmark. It is said that, before proceeding to the Danish capital to join the family gathering, the King of Greece will go to St. Petersburg to demand the hand of the Grand Duchess Olga, eldest daughter of the Grand Duke Constantine.

THE BIRTH OF A SON TO MARSHAL CANROBERT is announced in the French papers. The Emperor and Empress will stand as godfather and godmother to the infant.

THE EARL OF CAVAN has been holding "revival" meetings at Taunton. Lord Teynham has been preaching in the Independent chapel, Gainsborough. Lord A. Cecil has been holding religious services at Stamford.

A GENTLEMAN OF BURNHAM has offered £100 reward for the apprehension of some person who recently killed his cat.

THE OLD CONFEDERATE STEAMER THE SHENANDOAH has passed into the hands of the Sultan of Zanzibar, and will be used by him as a pleasure-yacht.

MR. GLADSTONE is unable to attend the inauguration of the statue of the late Mr. Cobden, which is fixed for Easter Monday, in consequence of having to go to Paris in connection with the Exhibition. The inauguration will, therefore, be conducted by Mr. George Wilson, formerly chairman of the Anti-Corn Law League.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS have resolved, with a view to the protection of the valuable public property now in course of construction at Westminster, to establish a fire-brigade station on a large scale in Victoria street.

THE CASTLE HOTEL AT ABERYSTWYTH, which was remodelled upon and enlarged from an older house by Mr. Seddon, has been purchased, and is to be completed, in order to fit it for a university for Wales. Its central situation renders this edifice well suited for this purpose.

THE LONGEST RIVER on the American continent is the Mississippi, 3160 miles in length. The longest line of railway is the Illinois Central, 700 miles long. The longest bridge is the Victoria, which spans the St. Lawrence at Montreal.

THE TURKISH GARRISON commenced to evacuate the Belgrade citadel on Monday.

THE IRISH LIBERAL MEMBERS, it is stated, have come to the resolution that the voting-papers clause in the English Reform Bill is one which demands their opposition, in order that there may be no precedent for such a scheme when the Irish bill comes on for consideration.

THE ENGINE-DRIVERS ON THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY resident in Darlington on Wednesday night intimated that they would not go to work on Thursday morning. No reason has been assigned for this conduct.

THE CELEBRATED ANNUAL TICHBORNE DOLE was distributed at Tichborne, in Hants, a few days since. The dole consisted of 250 gallons of bread. It was distributed in the name of Sir Henry Alfred Joseph Doughty Tichborne, the infant son of the late Sir Alfred Tichborne. This dole was originated by the Tichborne family in Henry II.'s time.

A GREAT NUMBER OF HYACINTHS are now blooming luxuriantly in the Temple Gardens, and fill twelve oval beds on the grass plat beside the broad walk. They were first planted by Mr. Broome, the gardener, in coconut fibre, under a west wall, in October last, and were shifted to the position they now occupy in January. They are not apparently at all affected by the plentiful smoke with which the atmosphere is almost continually charged, and are just now in perfection.

JOHN SMITH, fifty-five years of age, was found dead at Kegworth, Notts, on Tuesday. He had been drinking, and on returning home he placed his head between some railings. It is supposed that he afterwards tried to extricate himself, but, being unable to do so, he died of strangulation. Several persons passed him when he must have been dying, but, believing him to be drunk, no notice was taken of him. His sufferings must have been horrible.

A SHOCKING MURDER is reported from Birmingham. It appears that John Pryse, a traveller for a firm of gunmakers in that town, had detected some defalcations in the accounts of the cashier, James Scott, and that the latter suddenly attacked the former with a six-barrelled revolver from which he fired four shots. Three of the bullets took effect, two of them fatally. Another shot went through the hand of the principal of the firm, who was present.

THE BODY OF A WOMAN was found in the Grand Junction Canal, at Paddington, on Monday. She is apparently thirty-five years of age, wore a wedding-ring, was clad in mourning, but without bonnet. Clamped tightly in her arms was the body of a fine child, about eighteen months old, which wore a grey cloak, brown stuff dress, three petticoats, and side-spring boots. There was no covering on the child's head. Its position denoted that it had struggled hard to get away from the grasp of the woman. Both bodies had been in the water several hours. They are now in the Paddington dead-house, awaiting identification.

GENERAL SHERMAN, in his report on New Mexico, says that the United States have held that territory twenty years, at a cost of 100,000,000 dols. The population is 100,000. It requires a military force of 2500 men to govern it, and the cost of every soldier is 1000 dols. a year. The Indians, consisting of nearly 9000 souls, are collected together on a reservation forty miles square; and they are maintained by the Government at a cost of above 60,000 dols. a month. It has been found cheaper to feed than to fight them.

THE QUEEN has presented a portrait of the Prince Consort, by Winterhalter, to the National Portrait Gallery. It is an excellent likeness, whole length, the size of life, and represents the Prince in the dark uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of the Rifle Brigade. He is seen standing on the terrace at Osborne, and the sombre tone of his dress is relieved by the brilliant hues of the robes of the Order of the Bath, thrown over a chair beside him, and by the ample folds of a magnificent crimson curtain falling in the background. The picture is a replica by Winterhalter himself of the last portrait painted from life, now hanging on the Ambassadors' staircase at Buckingham Palace.

A DONATION OF £100 has lately been sent to the National Life-boat Institution by Master Herbert Marston, a son of the Rev. C. D. Marston, Rector of Kersal, Manchester. This young gentleman, who is afflicted with blindness, was so interested in the work of the life-boat crews by hearing Mr. Baillan's story, "The Life-boat; a Tale of Our Coast Heroes," that he began in the spring of last year a collection for the National Life-boat Institution, which has resulted in this peculiar and gratifying donation to the institution.

ANOTHER FENIAN ESCAPE.—Another of those mysterious occurrences which have attended the Fenian outbreak from the beginning occurred, on Tuesday night, in Dublin. John Kirwan, a well-known "centre," who has long baffled all the efforts of the police to apprehend him, was at length taken, and, being wounded, was conveyed to a hospital in Dublin. He was placed in a ward with two other wounded Fenian prisoners. Although suffering from the effects of a bullet through the shoulder-blade, and two policemen were in charge, he contrived to escape by a window, and is reported to have got clear off.

OVERBURDENED WITH PAUPERS.—At the meeting of the board of guardians of St. Pancras, held on Wednesday, Mr. Churchwarden Robson in the chair, the officers reported that there were 10,336 persons receiving in or out door parochial relief, being an increase of 2008 as compared with the number at the corresponding period of last year; also that there were fifty children in the workhouse, for whom no adequate accommodation could be provided in the house, and they could not be received into the district school at Hanwell, on account of the contract number, 350, being already exceeded by six.

TELEGRAPHS TO THE EAST.—The Secretary to the Treasury has laid before the House of Commons a Treasury Minute of Jan. 10, to the effect that while the Board would not consider itself justified in offering a subsidy or guarantee to any company for establishing lines of telegraphic communication, they would be disposed to encourage companies willing to lay down lines of which the Government approve, by causing surveys to be made of the proposed route, and rendering assistance by her Majesty's vessels in laying the cables, and also by using the good offices of the Government with foreign Governments upon whose territories it may be requisite to land cables. The Government would stipulate for priority in the despatch of messages, and for the power in certain contingencies of assuming possession of the line upon payment of proper compensation. The lines which the Government consider most called for are these:—Falmouth to Gibraltar, Gibraltar to Malta, Egypt to Aden and Kurrachee, Rangoon to Singapore, Singapore or Malacca (via Java), to Australia, Singapore to Shanghai (via Hong-Kong), Shanghai to Yokohama.



OPENING OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION: THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS LEAVING THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.—SEE PAGE 227.



"THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY MR. FRANK NOLAN, IN THE DUDLEY GALLERY.)

"THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER."

WHAT is the whispered lesson which those ruddy petals have to tell as they are held in the fair taper fingers and pressed against a cheek that can only be made to look fairer by contrast? The picture itself is as suggestive to the spectator as are those scattering blossoms to the young beauty who forms its subject. It is as full of only half-revealed thought as it is full of dainty colouring; and Mr. Nolan may well regard it as his most successful effort, since it combines two very rare qualities—richness and sobriety. There is no meretricious glare; no metallic lustre. The soft but brilliant hues of the flowers are toned down as they are in nature to a harmony which seems partially to blend them; and the tint of the dress, with only just enough of a sheen upon it to distinguish it as *fabric*, is exquisitely chosen. It is that of the cool side of a peach which yet has its sunny side. There is a world of fancy and thought, too, in that sweet face, on which the last roses of summer will not fade for many a day; a pensive, almost melancholy charm, which sets us thinking, as she, too, seems to be thinking, of that poem of Herrick. She might be repeating, softly,

Fair pledges of a fruitful tree
Why do you fall so fast?
Your date is not so past,
But you may stay yet here awhile,
To blush and gently smile,
And go at last.
What! were ye born to be
An hour or half's delight,
And so to bid good-night?
'Tis pity Nature brought ye forth
Merely to show your worth,
And lose you quite.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE forty-eight, or whatever was the number of gentlemen who met in the tea-room at the House of Commons, have been exposed to a good deal of odium because they chose to call in question the policy of the move which Mr. Gladstone was about to make. But, after studying Gladstone's original instruction, and deciding in my own mind what it meant, and what would have been the result if it had been carried, I have come to the conclusion that in every way the forty-eight were right and Gladstone wrong, and that they have saved him from a very awkward dilemma. Moreover, there was no necessity, even to carry his point, for Gladstone to move that part of his instruction which has been lopped off, for the Committee would have the power to consider the matters involved without an instruction. Nay, May tells us that not only was it unnecessary, but informal. Here are his words:—"If the proposed provision be relevant to the bill it cannot be the subject of an instruction, which would be nugatory, as the Committee would already have the power which it is the object of the instruction to confer." But, returning to the policy of this move. This latter clause of Mr. Gladstone's instruction was, as we all know, intended to get the franchise fixed at a rental of £5, although he did not give the figure. Now, a £5 rental is equivalent generally to a £7 rental, and that was the level at which he fixed the franchise last year. This sum was never satisfactory to the Radical section of the Liberal party. They swallowed it last year merely because they would not hamper the Government. It was not surprising, then, that they should, now that there is no case of hampering a Government which they usually support, insist that the franchise should not be fixed at this high level. But I have said that they have delivered Gladstone out of a dilemma, and I will now show you how. If Disraeli had been defeated he might, and possibly would, have dissolved, and then he would have gone to the country with the cry of household suffrage against £7 rental. It is true that Disraeli's household suffrage is so limited that it is not at present really household suffrage. But under any limitations likely to be retained, it would be much nearer household suffrage than Mr. Gladstone's £7 rental line is; and then, as Mr. Lowe pointed out, if all Disraeli's limitations and counterpoises should pass, they cannot possibly exist many years. And this fact—for fact it is—would certainly be understood by the people. And thus we should have had all the Radicals in the country shouting for Disraeli and household suffrage against the cry of Gladstone and a £7 franchise. Here would have been an awkward state of things. The truth is, that this was a false move, and these forty-eight much-abused gentlemen ought to be considered the saviours of the Liberal party.

It is still on the cards that we may have Government defeated before Easter, and Parliament dissolved immediately, or immediately after Easter. Many of the members are in consternation about this threatened dissolution; and no wonder, for the election in 1865 cost many of them a deal of money. There is a gentleman in the House who, it is said, bought his way into it at a cost of £20,000, and then had to buy off a petition at an expenditure of half that sum. And, mind you, there has been the commercial panic since then; and, as this gentleman is connected with the money market, we may be pretty sure that a goodly sum went down in that storm.

I will just venture one prophecy, though I may be proved a false prophet before your readers see my prophecy. Here it is: I think Disraeli will think twice before he dissolves upon this small question of two or one. He has said much about reciprocity, seeking the help of all parties. Surely, if beaten he will agree to the change, and perhaps concede the point without a division.

The following marvellous bit is extracted from the report in the *Standard* of Tuesday, of the deputation of "Conservative working men" to Mr. Disraeli:—

Mr. Parrott, from Kidderminster; Mr. Mosey, from Exeter; Mr. C. J. Lucas, from Macclesfield; and Mr. Gatiliff, from Portsmouth, strongly advocated the personal payment of rates and the residential clauses; and said that, if the bill wanted planing down and chiselling, they hoped it would not be done by Birmingham tools, however bright they might be (Cheers).

I have read in old books of a four-man's song, but this four-man's joke is a novelty. Fancy Kidderminster, Macclesfield, Exeter, and Portsmouth each sending its comic working man to assist in making that tremendous pun upon Bright! Why did they do it? Was it in kindness to Mr. Disraeli? "That gentleman," they may have thought, "has been hard worked of late. He requires a stimulant. Let us send him a joke. Let Parrott, Mosey, Lucas, and Gatiliff set to work and build up a pun to amuse him. It will do him good." And these four nature's noblemen, earnest even in fun, charitably brought from four diverse points of the compass the component materials of this wondrous jest, received with cheers in Downing-street. Mr. Disraeli must have fully appreciated such a tribute of a nation's love. It is, however, not recorded that he was betrayed into any exhibition of deep feeling in consequence. Surely he might at least have directed the four jesters to the kitchen, and ordered them some pease-pod and table-beer as fitting refreshment after their exertions to promote his mirth and happiness.

Mr. J. J. Merriman, of London, solicitor to the Reform League, is a candidate for Southampton—in expectation, I presume, of a dissolution being necessitated by the defeat of the Government on the Reform Bill.

The editor of "Debrett" is an industrious gentleman. I lately had to notice in your columns his new editions of the "Peerage" and the "Baronetage, Knightage, and House of Commons;" and I have now before me a new work belonging to the same series—namely, "The House of Commons and Judicial Bench." The book contains biographies of the several persons named, compiled from facts supplied and in many cases revised by themselves, and, consequently, to some extent justifying the editor in describing his work as "the most comprehensive, complete, and reliable book of the kind ever issued." But we must not forget that "Dod" is in existence, and that a like claim might, and probably is, made on his behalf. So we may take this statement *cum grano*. Both authorities are useful, however, so let us be grateful for them. The novel features of this new work by "Debrett's" editor, Mr. Robert Henry Mair, consist in heraldic emblazonments and descriptions of the armorial bearings of the members of the House of Commons, emblazonments of the arms of Parliamentary boroughs and cities, and biographical sketches of the Judges of the superior and county courts. Indeed, the part devoted to the Judicial Bench—an original contribution to the

"Library of Reference"—is exceedingly valuable, and is well worth the price of the whole work. The volume is neatly got up, and will, I am sure, be found an extremely useful and convenient storehouse of information.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

How easily one might manufacture a bad joke about Lamb just now—only the offence would deserve fifty lashes. The *British Quarterly* has an article about him, which is discerning enough, but discursive even to the length of being shatterbrained, and not suggesting anything new, as the article in *Macmillan* did; though, leaving out the fresh facts, it contained nothing but what was obvious. The paper in the *B. Q.* on Mrs. Gaskell's novels is, I suppose, from the same pen as the paper in last quarter's number on George Eliot's. It is what is called a "sound" article, but has no other merit. I presume it does not pretend to be a criticism. It is in its shorter reviews of books under the head of "Contemporary Literature," that the *B. Q.* exhibits the best of its critical power; those little notices are nearly always happy and discriminating. The opening article of the number—on "Baur and the Tübingen School"—is a good specimen of that large, candid kind of quasi-critical exposition for which the *B. Q.* has a character of its own in theological matters. It is, alone, enough to make the number worth buying.

The *Contemporary*, always solid and informing, and usually pleasant, presents nothing that readily commends itself to casual comment. No doubt the article which the general reader will first turn to is that on the history of "Mariolatry." The article by the editor on certain "Recent Sermons" opens with some highly sensible remarks, and is kind and candid throughout; but I can scarcely find anything that seems worthy of particular admiration in the passages that he quotes from the "Sermons." Such writing is very easy, and for a man to complain of being obliged to write two or three sermons a week, if either the "eloquent" style or the "epigrammatic" style is to be taken as the model, is ridiculous. The thing might be done to order by the yard.

In the *Fortnightly Review* Mr. Capes on the relation of Music to the expression of moral ideas is interesting and convincing—to those who do not require convincing, because they already understand the subject; but those who are capable of doubting what he says are incapable of being reached by argument. Both the history and the prospects of liberal opinion in politics are treated in the present number with great moderation of statement and clearness of thought. Welcome to Aurelio Saffi on "Italy and the Pope!" But how the Italian question has changed colour and shape since his name first became familiar to English eyes and ears! Mr. Morley on "Edmund Burke" continues to show at his best. He is one of the few writers who have had the sincerity not to express surprise at Mill's Parliamentary career! He deserves a medal.

Of *Aunt Judy's Magazine* it is difficult to say anything new month by month—it is always good. The editor cannot possibly give us too much of her own writing.

Last month I was complaining that the *Monthly Packet* wanted variety. By accident or by design the present number is as varied as it well could be.

Mr. Beeton's *Englishman's Magazine* is scarcely so good in its literature as it used to be, but its print is larger, which is a great thing in a magazine intended for women—the reason I have spoken of before.

The first monthly part of *Cassell's Magazine* has just reached me, and consequently I have not had time to dip very deeply into it; but it seems to me to have one fault—it is very indifferently printed. Good literature, clever engravings, and beautiful tone-paper are, to a large extent, thrown away for lack of a little care in printing. This blemish is to be regretted, and should be remedied.

As everybody—who can—will be going to Paris this year, and as everybody who goes to Paris will—and must—be guided when in the French capital, a volume just published by Messrs. Bradbury, Evans, and Co., is both welcome and well timed. It is entitled "Paris for the English, 1867," and is the work of Mr. Blanchard Jerrold. The book gives full information as to how to get to Paris; what to see and what to do when there; how to choose an hotel, to rent apartments, to hire servants, and to select a restaurant; how to ride in omnibuses, cabs, and so forth; how to find persons and things missing; and how to avail one's-self of the aid of the telegraph, the post office, money-changers, doctors, dentists, chemists, embassies, and consulates; as well as much other information of a most valuable—in fact, indispensable—kind. The book also professes to direct the visitor in a tour through the Exhibition; but that, I suspect, is rather premature as yet. Mr. Jerrold knows Paris thoroughly, and is therefore fully competent for the task he has undertaken, and which he seems to have spared no pains to discharge faithfully.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

It is some time since the production of a new piece has excited so much interest in the literary and theatrical world as that which attended the first performance of Mr. T. W. Robertson's comedy "Caste," at the PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. Mr. Robertson made his two great successes at this theatre—"Society" and "Ours;" and, although there were many faults of construction in both of these plays, the epigrammatic character of the dialogue, the originality of thought, and the quaint vein of good-humoured chaffy cynicism which ran through them, with (it must not be forgotten) the admirable fashion in which they were placed upon the stage by the management of the Prince of Wales, and the almost unexceptionable manner in which they were performed by the company, rendered these pieces the most famous things which the theatre going public had seen or heard of for years. They were gigantic successes. Well, Mr. Robertson grew, naturally enough, to be the theatrical fashion, and more managers wooed and won him than he ought at any one time to have listened to. He produced "Shadow-Tree Shaft," a picturesque drama, at the Princess's, and a "A Rapid Thaw," a translation from the French, at the St. James's. Neither piece was successful. "Shadow-Tree Shaft" was a pleasant piece enough on the whole, and it had a "situation" which, for dramatic intensity, has rarely been surpassed; but it was marred by a clumsy third act and a too willing sacrifice at the shrine of the scene-painter. "A Rapid Thaw" was brightly written; but it was slovenly in construction, and not particularly well played. It was—not to put too fine a point upon it—a failure. Under these circumstances—that is to say, the production, by a previously obscure author, of two marvellously-successful original comedies, immediately followed by two pieces of far less pretension, both of which were practically failures—it is a matter of little surprise that the pretty little box in Tottenham-street was crowded on Saturday last with an eager and attentive audience to witness the first performance of Mr. Robertson's third original comedy, "Caste."

"Caste" is in very many respects the best piece that Mr. Robertson has written. There is more individuality of character in it than there was either in "Society" or "Ours." I do not mean that its personages possess more marked characteristics, but that they are more like the genuine human beings of everyday life than were the characters in either of the previous pieces. Then the force of contrast is employed to much greater advantage in "Caste" than it was in "Society" or "Ours," and the story, although conventional enough, is less strained than in either of the previous pieces. Indeed, Mr. Robertson appears to depend very little upon intricacy or probability of plot for the success of his works. He seems to think that so long as he makes his dramatic personages lifelike and characteristic, he may leave the plot to take care of itself. In the hands of so accomplished a master of comedy dialogue, it is no doubt true that the plot of the piece may fairly be made to hold a secondary place in the author's consideration; but I cannot help thinking that he has always allowed this *laissez aller* feeling to go too far. He should remember that there are always many people in every audience who are not sufficiently intelligent to appreciate his admirable dialogue, but to whom a mechanical defect in mere construction will be at once apparent. I need not go at length into

the plot of the piece; it turns upon the fact that a young heavy dragoon, the son of a Marchioness, falls in love with and secretly marries a very pretty and virtuous ballet-girl. The mother discovers this fact just as her son is about to depart for service in India, and quarrels with him on the strength of it. The dragoon is reported killed in India; and his widow and little child are reduced to extreme want. However, the report of his death is erroneous; he returns alive and well, and all ends happily. There is an underplot, which deals with the courtship and marriage of the ballet-girl's sister and an honest young gasfitter, and the piece generally is pervaded by a drunken old villain, the ballet-girl's father. It is no slight compliment to Mr. Robertson's talent for brilliant and effective dramatic dialogue that the audience remained interested in this singularly slender plot for upwards of three hours on Saturday night. The interest in the piece did not flag for a second until a scene in the middle of the third act, which was rather protracted, and which was probably reduced within proper bounds days ago. The piece was eminently successful in every respect. It is put upon the stage with singular completeness, and acted as no comedy ever was acted before in the memory of the present generation. Miss Foote, as the virtuous ballet-girl, was impressively charming. It is a part which is exactly suited to her calibre, and she made the most of it. It is not too much to say that this young lady stands at the very head of her own line of business on the London stage. Miss Wilton, as her light-hearted sister, was as blithe and gay and "jimp" (there is no word that so exactly conveys the impression of Miss Wilton) as she always is, and nobody was surprised to find her so; but I will undertake to say that the audience generally was very much surprised at her unexpected burst of pathos in the third act, when she finds that her brother-in-law is not dead. Mr. Younge had a part, as D'Alroy, a heavy, good-natured, honourable, lipping cavalry officer, which was hardly suited to him; but he made the most of it notwithstanding. His lip, I thought, was rather out of place, and tended to annihilate the effect of his pathetic scene with his wife in the third act. Mr. Hare, as Sam Gerridge, the honest gasfitter, astounded the audience by the fidelity of his "make-up," which was wonderfully lifelike. This gentleman is a thoroughly conscientious actor, in every sense of the word; and I stick to my prophecy that he will one day be the greatest ornament of the London stage. Mr. Bancroft has also made an important professional stride by his impersonation of Hawtree, a good-natured, dissipated *parvenu*, a brother-officer of D'Alroy. Mr. Bancroft has for some time past been the standing butt of small critics; but his steady rise in public favour is a proof how little a really unjust criticism has to do with the permanent success of any actor to whom it is applied. I do not know an actor in London who would have played Hawtree as well as it was played by Mr. Bancroft. Mr. Honey's performance of the drunken old scoundrel Eccles is a remarkable piece of acting. His make-up is singularly good, and, but for a slight tendency to exaggeration in the last act, his representation of the character was an exceptionally artistic performance. There is an injudicious piece of "ballet business" in the third act, which should be cut out without delay, and some allusions to and quotations from Froissart by the Marchioness (excellently played, by-the-way, by Miss Larkin, I really beg her pardon for not mentioning her sooner), which should share the same fate. The third act is altogether too long. However, notwithstanding this, the piece was a triumphant success—a success creditable alike to author, manager, and actors.

Mrs. Scott Siddons, a young lady who is rather unnecessarily paraded in the bills as the "great-granddaughter of THE Mrs. Siddons," has this week made her first appearance on the London boards, at the HAYMARKET, as Rosalind in "As You Like It." Rosalind is an ambitious rôle for a young actress to select for her début; it demands a much more complete control over the actress's emotions than a débutante can be expected to possess. But Mrs. Siddons, although "amateurish" in gesture, has many points to recommend her to public notice. She is young, pretty, has a clear enunciation, an expressive face, and a careful and judicious delivery. With the aid of a little more stage experience than she at present possesses, she will be a valuable addition to any theatrical company in London. Her début was quite successful, if applause is to be taken as a criterion of success.

Most anonymous letters are thrown behind the fire unread. I am glad that I did not take such a summary course with an epistle I have received this week from "Amateur," for it has amused me considerably. My anonymous friend, who is annoyed at some remarks of mine anent "legitimate drama" at Drury Lane, calls me "a palpable and arrant idiot," and alludes to my "flatulent stupidity," whatever that may mean. However, I will let that pass. "Amateur" has lost his temper, and he may regret what he has written. To show, however, that I do not write without thinking, and that I am quite prepared to defend the line I have taken, if "Amateur" will send me his name and address, I will take the trouble of answering his letter in a fair and, I trust, in a gentlemanly manner. This course is, at any rate, honest and above board.

A PATRON OF MUSIC-HALLS.—You were, on a certain night, and I can tell you when, if you want to compare the date with your diary—I suppose you keep up your private diary, if you neglect that of your employers—you were in the front of the gallery of a certain music-hall, over the water. Perhaps you were in a gushing kind of mood, between weakness, and drink, and music. Anyhow, you entered into the most amicable conversation with the person sitting next to you, and both of you became confidential in the extreme, as you proceeded with your refreshments. Now, when a person of the lower class in life comes before a magistrate and begins his idiotic confession that he was gazing at the steam-boats at London Bridge, and a young man, who was also gazing at them, remarked what a wonderful thing is steam, and what a deal of business is done at what wharves, and the profundity of his remarks and his general affability induced the complaining body to accept a glass of ale, and then he was robbed, why, we say that he is a pitiable donkey, and that it is a waste of good law to use it in behalf of such fools. But when an educated young gentleman—a lawyer—makes himself tipsy, and goes into a low haunt to make revelations to the first stranger who comes to sit by him, what do we say then, Mr. Farquhar?—"Sooner or Later," by Shirley Brooks.

DEATH OF THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.—The Right Rev. Joseph Cotton Wigram, D.D., Lord Bishop of Rochester, died on Saturday evening, while in the act, we understand, of preparing his sermon for the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on Sunday morning. He was sixty-eight years old, having been born on Dec. 26, 1798. Dr. Wigram was the sixth out of eleven sons, and sixth out of the fourteen children, of Mr. Robert Wigram, of Wexford, an eminent London merchant (who was created a Baronet in 1805, and whose grandson is the present Sir Robert Fitzwigram, third Baronet), by his second marriage, with Eleanor, daughter of Mr. John Watts. He graduated as sixth wrangler of Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1819; M.A., 1822; D.D., 1860. He was secretary of the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church from 1827 to 1839; Rector of East Tisted, Hampshire, from 1839 to 1850; Archdeacon of Winchester; Rector of St. Mary's, Southampton; and Canon of Winchester Cathedral from 1850 till his elevation, in 1860, on the death of Dr. George Murray, to the see of Rochester, of which he was the ninety-sixth Bishop from the days of St. Augustine, in 604. Dr. Wigram was an Evangelical in his religious views, and a year or two back his somewhat injudicious denunciations ex cathedra of those of his clergy who played cricket with their parishioners on the village greens, or who wore moustaches and beards, caused no little indignation in Essex and ridicule in London. His Lordship, however, was a very earnest, hard-working man, without any pretensions to oratorical powers or theological learning; but whatever faults his clergy might find with his discretion, no one ever accused him of discourtesy, inaccessibility, or indifference to the calls of duty. The death of the venerable Prelate makes the first vacancy on the episcopal bench which Lord Derby has been called upon to fill; and the noble Premier has intimated to persons interested in the matter that in any appointment that may be made to the bishopric of Rochester, vacant by the death of Dr. Wigram, there will be a condition that the Bishop shall consent to the proposed arrangement (in case it should be sanctioned by Parliament) for a subdivision of the diocese by the erection of a new see of St. Albans, as provided for by Lord Lytton's bill now under the consideration of the House of Lords. By the death of the Bishop of Rochester several changes will take place under the provisions of former re-arrangement of the diocese of London, and those sees which are contiguous to it. It is rumoured that the vacant bishopric will probably be conferred on the Rev. Thomas Legh Cloughton, M.A., Honorary Canon of Worcester and Vicar of Kidderminster. The Rev. E. M. Goulburn, D.D., Dean of Norwich, is also named for the appointment.

FINE ARTS.

THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

THE Suffolk-street society may be congratulated on a really excellent show of pictures this year. Its members have worked honestly, energetically, and liberally, and they have achieved the success they so thoroughly merit. They have given a full share of their line-space to non-members—indeed, appear to have hung the pictures according to their deserts, without regard to membership or non-membership. The result is an exhibition which will do more to establish the society in the high position its well-wishers would desire to see it take than any of the previous exhibitions for many seasons. The two rooms devoted to water-colour drawings form an additional attraction. This new feature is a valuable one, for it gives very enlarged opportunities to young artists whom the rules of the water-colour societies exclude, and for whom latterly the Dudley Gallery has not done as much as could be desired.

The place of honour in the gallery is awarded, most properly, to Mr. E. C. Barnes's "Beau's Stratagem" (115), a picture which is as novel in treatment as it is sound in colour. The story tells itself very clearly. A young gallant, in order to steal an opportunity of communicating with a pretty damsel, makes desperate love to the old sea-dragon who is supposed to act as her duenna, and who is so taken up with his pretty compliments that she does not observe the billet-doux which he passes to her young charge. Mr. Barnes has painted this incident as occurring on the seashore, instead of in a terraced garden with trim yews, such as an ordinary artist would have selected for the subject. The background is carefully painted, and the harmony of colours in the dresses of the figures is admirably managed, the painting of the velvet doublet of the beau deserving a special mention. Mr. Barnes also exhibits "The Emigrant" (138), a young girl looking back to her native land as the ship sets sail for other shores. The expression is painted with intense feeling, without being in the least degree exaggerated. In "Break, break, break!" (382) the same clever artist gives us a simple subject full of truth, poetry, and beauty. The female figure looking out over the smooth sea is full of grace and tenderness; and the slow-creeping tide, lying, silvery grey, under the evening clouds, is painted with the breadth and simplicity which mark the master.

Those who remember Mr. Henry's seashore studies in the Royal Academy will rejoice to meet him in Suffolk-street. His "Cleaning the Old Lobster-boat" (98) is an admirable work. The suffused light of a bright day by a still sea is capably given, and the accessories of shore and water are rendered with great truth. Mr. Ludovici—one of the new members just elected—exhibits a work which more than justifies his election. "Here cloistered peace and holy quiet reign" (145) is the key-note of the composition. A priest, busily engaged in reading his "office," is pacing the dim cloisters in the background; while in front a troop of merry children, bursting out of school into the sunshine, hush their merriment in reverence as they pass him. The contrast is carefully kept, without trick, and the quality of the painting is high. Mr. A. H. Burr exhibits two capital pictures—"Holy Water" (126), and "Nursing Baby" (580), a young lad who has dropped to sleep, overcome with the anxieties of his task of nursing his little brother. The pose is easy and natural, and the painting crisp and vigorous.

Mr. Bromley is to be congratulated on choosing a more worthy class of subjects this year. His "Queen Catherine and Wolsey" (9) and "The News of Arthur's Death" (328) are much in advance of former works. In "Julia and Lucetta" (266) there is a really exquisite harmony of colours in the former's dress. It is to be regretted the faces are not equal in painting to the rest of the work in these pictures. Mr. Haynes King is another member who makes a decided stride this year. His "Important Question" (54) is a very clever and pleasing little composition.

Mr. J. O. Thom contributes several canvases, all of them of a high order of merit. "The Pilgrims" (20), a group of children stealing apples, is painted in his best style. "The Contested Election" (198), by Mr. J. Ritchie, is a very noticeable work. It is a little strange in colour, but is admirably grouped; and the painting is careful and conscientious, and the drawing excellent. Mr. Tourrier exhibits "The Despatch" (219), a cavalier penning a missive on a drumhead. Mr. Bayes is seen to advantage in his "Naaman's Wife and her Hebrew Maid" (408); while Mr. Pasquier appears at his best in "A Marauding Party" (67). Mr. Fitzgerald exhibits a graceful group of maidens receiving a letter by their "Secret Messenger" (27), a tame deer. Mr. J. E. Soden, Mr. Dicksee, and Mr. Horsford also exhibit works of much merit.

Mr. Heapley, another recently-elected member, does not succeed altogether in pleasing us with his "Fairfax and his Daughter" (288). The girl's figure is graceful—though, by-the-way, she is much older than the quotation annexed in the catalogue makes her; but the attitude and expression of the governess detract from the effect. Mr. Montaigne's "Rebel Prisoners" (225) has passages of merit, but falls off slightly as a whole. Mr. Worrall's "Lover's Complaint" (285) is painted with such minute care and finish that we could wish the *ensemble* had been more successful. Miss Kate Swift falls into a brown metallic tone, often observable in her work, in the subject she exhibits (208) illustrative of the lines,

How delicious is the winning
Of a kiss at love's beginning.

Mr. Rossiter wants atmosphere in his "Coast" (39), which otherwise has good qualities. Mr. Roberts's "Tedious Sermon" (33) is a vulgarised version of Millais's picture last year. Mr. Hay's "Ballad-Singer" (155) has no merit in painting to atone for the sensationalism of the subject. Mr. Priolo's "Sicilian Vespers" (319) might be dispensed with.

Mr. Luker paints some cattle with his accustomed skill in "On the Thames" (288), and Mr. Astor Corbould maintains his place as a painter of similar subjects. In Mr. Bonavia's "Lubri" (501) the dog's head is most admirably done—full of life and expression. We are glad to observe that Mr. Simms continues to improve in his pictures of animal life. His "Double Shot" (129) gives us some capital plumage-painting, and there is much character in his "Indolence" (195). Mr. Simms may take good rank as an animal-painter if he perseveres in this style.

Among the landscapes the most noticeable, perhaps, are Mr. G. Cole's two large canvases, "The Shepherd's Return" (120) and "Spring" (171). The glow of sunset in the former picture is painted in the masterly manner familiar to those who know Mr. Cole's work. In the latter the freshness of spring is rendered with thorough reality. In the foreground men are employed in barking a felled timber tree. Mr. C. J. Lewis is as delightful as ever in his "Evening on the Thames" (32)—the effect of the rising dew is truthfully given. Mr. Syer's "Minehead" (153), Mr. Pyne's "Lago Maggiore" (183), and Mr. E. A. Pettitt's "Avalanche" (417), are works well worthy of the established reputation which their respective artists have won. Mr. A. Gilbert exhibits several pictures of the usual class, marked with the same facility and appreciation, which even a sense of sameness cannot make us overlook. Mr. A. Clint's "Sunrise" (111) is an admirable painting. Mr. Woolmer's "Haddon Hall" (218) is, without doubt, the best thing we have ever seen from his brush. Mr. J. P. Knight's "Mill" (79), and Mr. J. Knight's views "Near Sevenoaks" (76, 103) are of great merit; as is also Mr. Rose's "Wood and Water" (83). Messrs. Boddington, Bottomley, and Finnie also appear to advantage.

Mr. H. Moore is a new member who will prove a great acquisition. "The Old Paddle-boat, City of Canterbury" (312) is rich in good qualities; and such a picture as "A Sultry Afternoon in August" (429) is a thing for quiet study and enjoyment. Mr. Moore is the third new member of whom we have spoken; Mr. Walters, who belongs to the water-colour school, is the fourth, and completes the quartette of new elections, upon which the society may be complimented and congratulated.

The only instance of decidedly bad hanging in the gallery is to be found in the "skying" of Mr. Donaldson's able study of the "Cloisters of Santa Maria degli Angeli, Rome" (362). This is so sound and truthful a picture that we are at a loss to understand how a hanging committee, which has shown such judgment in every other instance, should have done this picture such scant justice.

Among the marine-painters Mr. Edwin Hayes still stands *facile princeps*, with the sea under two aspects, in "The Life-boat" (82) and in "Marazion Bay" (274). Mr. Wilson's well-drawn waves (in No. 210, for instance), suffer from comparison with so high a standard, but are good. Mr. J. Danby's "North Shields" (69) is a pleasing study.

We must postpone our notice of the water-colour rooms for a week.

DEPUTATIONS TO MR. DISRAELI.

FROM LANCAHIRE.

ON Saturday a large deputation, describing itself as representing "the Constitutional Associations of Lancashire," was received by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Downing-street. Its object was to offer support and sympathy to her Majesty's Government and to assure the right hon. gentleman that, so far as South Lancashire is concerned, the majority of the inhabitants do not coincide in the views expressed by the Reform League. Mr. Disraeli, in his reply, set forth the anxious desire of the Government to settle the question of Reform on popular principles, and said that, as Liberal opinions were now opposed to popular principles, the Government, if defeated, intended to appeal to the people of England.

FROM "WORKING MEN" OF GREAT BRITAIN.

On Monday afternoon a numerous deputation, representing London, Birmingham, Derby, Huddersfield, Batley, Leeds, Coventry, Macclesfield, Halifax, Exeter, Holbeck, Kidderminster, Portsmouth, Dewsbury, and other places, waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at his official residence, Downing-street, to demonstrate their approval of the conduct of the Government on the Reform question. The deputation, which was headed by a batch of Conservative members of Parliament, had assembled in one of the lower rooms, where it was expected Mr. Disraeli would receive them. A couple of minutes, however, before the time appointed to meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer arrived it was announced that the interview would take place up stairs. An alarming rush ensued, and after a hard scuffle the upper room was safely gained. The proceedings opened with rounds of boisterous cheering, which seemed to afford much gratification to the right hon. gentleman who was the object of the not particularly decorous proceeding. It was remarked that Mr. Disraeli looked more careworn than usual, and that the unnecessarily lengthy remarks of some of the numerous speakers who addressed the right hon. gentleman, although all of a character intended to please, rendered a display of languor and unwilling submission a very frequent characteristic in his countenance. The several spokesmen having delivered themselves of their remarks—the gist of which was that they represented the working classes throughout the country, a majority of whom were Conservatives—the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was received with loud cheers, said:—

Gentlemen, I never had the honour to receive a deputation more interesting to myself than the present one, not only from its varied character, but also from the principal elements that pervade it, though it comes from different districts. I have now placed myself in direct communication with the representatives of working men, and I have heard their opinions on the most important question of the day. I much lament that my noble chief and colleague is not present; but it is a source of consolation to me, and I am sure it will be to you, that he has almost entirely recovered from his severe indisposition, and that he will very soon find himself again in his place in the House of Lords. Gentlemen, I recall the circumstances under which the present Administration acceded to office. The late Government, in a Parliament elected under their own auspices, supported by an overwhelming majority, chose to deal with the question of Parliamentary Reform; and with all those advantages in their favour, they so managed the business that they gave it up at the last—absolutely in an ebullition of pique—that pique really meaning a self-consciousness of incompetency. Under those circumstances, her Majesty summoned Lord Derby to her councils. He took office in a Parliament not elected under his auspices, but where a great majority was arrayed against him. He was perfectly free, when he acceded to office, not to deal with Parliamentary Reform. There were many other questions of very vital importance to the country which had been too long neglected, which he felt required legislation and the immediate consideration of the Ministry. He and his colleagues therefore gave them their most intimate and most sedulous attention; and in the Queen's Speech you saw the enumeration of the measures which we believe necessary for the welfare of the country, which should be proposed and carried. I am sure, however fierce and bitter has been the opposition we have encountered on the question of Reform, no one has presumed to express a want of confidence in the existing Administration. During the time we have been in office the external relations of this country have been in a most critical and perilous state—no Government has, perhaps, ever been called upon to deal with those circumstances at a period when there was more danger and when more skilful management was required; and I am bold to say that the general conviction is that our foreign affairs have been managed with a rare sagacity. If you look to another most important branch of Administration—viz., that of Ireland—why, Ireland unquestionably has not been since the commencement of this century in a position of such danger and difficulty as it has been during the whole period and duration of our Government. Yet is there anyone who has impugned the administration of Lord Derby? On the contrary, it is not universally acknowledged, even by our opponents, that there has been shown the utmost vigilance, the utmost foresight, the utmost preparation to meet all the conspiracies that are perpetually breaking out in that country with firmness, but never with an approximation to cruelty? I will say that the conduct of our foreign affairs, and the government of Ireland by Lord Aberdeen and Lord Naas, are alone two great results which should entitle the Ministry to the candid consideration of the country. I will only touch upon another division of our Administration, because it always interests Englishmen to hear of the administration of their finances. We were bound to make great preparations and to enter upon great expenditure, not in making an idle show, but to create an army of reserve to maintain our position at home and our influence abroad. Yet, notwithstanding that inevitable increase in the expenditure, we have so increased our finances as to be able to propose measures that will greatly reduce the burden of this country, and also offer an immediate remission of taxation, and none of those measures—which will shortly be passed—have even been opposed by those who sit opposite to us. There is therefore not one of our opponents who has impugned our administration. Some of you have referred to the measures shadowed forth in the Queen's Speech. Two of the great measures proposed have already passed, although only a few weeks of the Session have elapsed. We passed a measure to consolidate the Confederation of our North American provinces, one of the greatest facts of that kind which have ever been consummated, and we have completed a reform of the metropolitan workhouses. Therefore, I am not surprised that no one of our opponents has presumed to propose a vote of want of confidence. What, then, is this measure in which we find so much opposition and difficulty? This is the state of affairs: that, though not bound to deal with the question of Reform, Lord Derby, taking a large view of the situation, and foreseeing the difficulties which might hang over this country in the future, deemed it his duty to make an attempt to settle the question; and having determined to do that, he resolved to do it on a permanent principle. He considered the question on a large scale—to bring about a settlement that would be approved by all the sensible and patriotic subjects of the Queen; and he proposed a measure that was large and liberal in its conception, and also in the application of its principles. I say that it was founded upon the right and the only principle—now referring to the point to which your observations have mainly led, to the most important point, the borough franchise—it was founded upon the only sound principle upon which that franchise could be based. It gave the electoral vote to every householder who was rated, and who personally paid their rates, and who, by adequate residence, showed themselves to be in possession of those civic virtues which entitle them to a voice in the representation of the country. It was indeed the restoration of the old Constitution of the country. It gave back to the working classes those rights and privileges of which they were deprived by the Reform Act of 1832; it seeks to break down that barrier between the people and their natural rulers, which we are assured that we shall be firm in adhering to the great principles of the measure; we have brought forward. Nothing for one moment would make us hesitate in that determination, nor have we ever for one instant, despite all that has been said to the contrary, hesitated in that resolution; and I am bound to say that in the House of Commons, as at present existing, we have found, on the whole, a generous and candid reception. We believe there is a sincere desire in the majority of the House that some measure should be passed adequate to the occasion; and, although we may encounter opposition from some quarters, we feel confident that from the general character of the House of Commons justice will be done us. But at the last moment, when we have carried the second reading, an opposition is threatened of a very different character—an appeal is made to the most contracted party feelings; application is made to the most factious party tactics in order to defeat the progress of the measure, and that, too, under the hypocritical pretence that the amendment is brought forward in a friendly spirit—an amendment, indeed, of a friendly character, which strikes at the very root and cardinal principle of our measure. And by whom is this to be brought forward, or rather counselled and stimulated? If it

were by one noble Lord—no doubt distinguished by some amount of ability, and entertaining the noble ambition of taking the place of Lord Derby—we could very well understand the motive; but you must recollect that this manoeuvre is invented by one who has, as a Minister, had every advantage, who has had the golden opportunities we never enjoyed, who was himself in the Parliament elected under the auspices of his own party, but who has, with all those advantages, so mismanaged business and proved himself perfectly incompetent to deal with the question. He is not the rival we ought to encounter under these circumstances. When Lord Derby and his colleagues brought forward this measure at very great sacrifices—when that measure was received by the House of Commons in a spirit of generous candour—it did not become a statesman who in this very Parliament had failed in inducing the country to respond to his measure—I say it does not become him to be the means of thwarting in this way the Government bill. For if he does succeed, the question of Reform may be postponed for years. Great confusion may arise in the country, and his success will be most detrimental to the monarchy and most pernicious to the nation. But what makes me hope that he will not succeed in this pernicious effort is the presence in the House of Commons of men like yourselves to-day, and in witnessing the patriotic spirit which animates you. I shall tell my colleagues of the reception I have had from you, and of the manly sentiments you have expressed as representing some of the most important towns and communities of the country. And when you go back to your homes, tell your friends and neighbours that the hour may arrive—and that, too, shortly—when we must count upon the energy and public spirit of all of you. Let not the appeal be made in vain; and, if it be successful, you will do much more than support a Ministry—you will save a nation.

ENGLAND AND SPAIN.

IMPORTANT DESPATCH OF LORD STANLEY.—DEMAND FOR COMPENSATION AND AN APOLOGY.

THERE has just been issued a batch of correspondence respecting the seizure by a Spanish revenue cruiser, the *Toro*, of a British coasting-vessel belonging to Gibraltar, called the *Queen Victoria*. It will be seen from the following despatch of Lord Stanley that her Majesty's Government insists upon the restoration of the ship, proper pecuniary indemnity, and an expression of regret for the outrage committed on the British flag.

LORD STANLEY TO SIR J. CRAMPTON.

Foreign Office, March 30.

Sir,—I have received from Mr. Consul Dunlop a copy of his report to you of Feb. 19, on the case of the *Queen Victoria*, and, having again consulted the law officers of the Crown, I am at length in a position to instruct you as to the reply which you should make, on behalf of her Majesty's Government, to General Calonge's letter of Jan. 9 last, of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch of the 11th of that month.

The *Queen Victoria* was seized so long ago as Jan. 15, 1866, by a Spanish guarda-costas, on the high seas, and not within Spanish waters, while on her voyage from Gibraltar to Larache, her crew being first terrified into submission; she was taken into Cadiz, where her crew were dispersed, money being given to enable them to depart from Cadiz, and threats of violence being used if they should remain in the place. The master of the vessel was for a time placed under restraint, and his papers were taken from him; the name of the vessel was defaced from the stern, and on the second morning after her arrival at Cadiz she was reported as having been found derelict off Rota, at the mouth of Cadiz harbour. This allegation, however, was afterwards abandoned, and in the following March, without any intimation of legal proceedings being pending against her having been given to her Majesty's Consul, who was in constant communication with the Spanish authorities with a view to her release, the vessel was condemned for having been found landing contraband goods on the Spanish shore or close thereto, and the goods found on board her sold under a public advertisement.

I do not think it necessary to recapitulate at length the proceedings at Cadiz, as reported by her Majesty's Consul, or the ineffectual remonstrances which, under instructions from her Majesty's Government, you made at Madrid when demanding redress for the outrage which had been committed on a British vessel on the high seas.

It is enough to refer to the assurances verbally given to you by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in your despatch of June 7, that he greatly regretted that her Majesty's Government should have supposed that the delay in replying to his representations regarding the *Queen Victoria* had proceeded from disinclination on the part of the Spanish Government to do justice to that of Great Britain, and that the matter was in the hands of the Finance Minister with a view to the institution of a most searching inquiry into the facts of the case, which he agreed with her Majesty's Government in considering to be of a serious nature.

In his letter of May 24, inclosed in your despatch of the 28th, the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs had previously assured you that he had "earnestly impressed on the Minister of Finance the necessity of hastening as much as possible the proceedings in order not to delay the satisfaction due to her Majesty's Government, either of well-founded explanations or of the punishment of those who had infringed the law in a manner corresponding to their offence, if, in fact, the result should prove such infraction."

Up to Nov. 6 last, however, no such solution had taken place; and it was only on Jan. 9 of the present year that, in reply to your letter of Nov. 6, expressing, by my direction, the surprise of her Majesty's Government at a satisfactory reply having been so long delayed, the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs announced to you that the Finance Minister and the Council of State had discovered "that the nature of the matter in question did not, and does not, admit of the action of the Executive, as it is solely in the province of the Spanish tribunal to decide upon the legality or illegality of the capture of the *Queen Victoria*, the cargo of which, consisting as it almost entirely did of tobacco, could not but excite suspicion concerning the true destination of the vessel."

General Calonge, in his letter of Jan. 9, goes on to say "that, in view of the non-intervention of the British Consul and of the parties interested in the inquiries set on foot at Cadiz, and although they made no reclamation at the proper time, confiscation decreed against this ship should be declared void in equity, thus leaving open the road for the said Consul, and the other persons whom it may concern, to present themselves and defend their interests before the tribunal which takes cognisance of the matter, and to claim what they may conceive to be due to them by right;" and, further, "that, if in the final result of the trial, the British Government should consider that there be notorious injustice committed to the detriment of the defendants, there would then be a fitting opportunity for treating by diplomacy."

Her Majesty's Government regret to say that they can attach no weight to these tardy assurances extracted from the Spanish Government after the lapse of nearly a year from the time that the wrong was done, and of more than half a year since a "prompt settlement" of the question was formally recommended to the Spanish Minister of Finance by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as stated to you by the latter in his letter of June 6, inclosed in your despatch of the 10th of that month.

Her Majesty's Government must observe, in noticing that part of the statement of General Calonge in which he asserts that the British Consul and parties interested omitted to intervene and make reclamation, that General Calonge has been misinformed on this subject. From the moment that the news of the seizure of the *Queen Victoria* came to the knowledge of the British Consul, he made incessant and urgent demands for the delivery up of the vessel and cargo—demands which her Majesty's Government regret to state were wholly ineffectual to prevent the unlawful proceedings of those who persisted in condemning and confiscating the property seized.

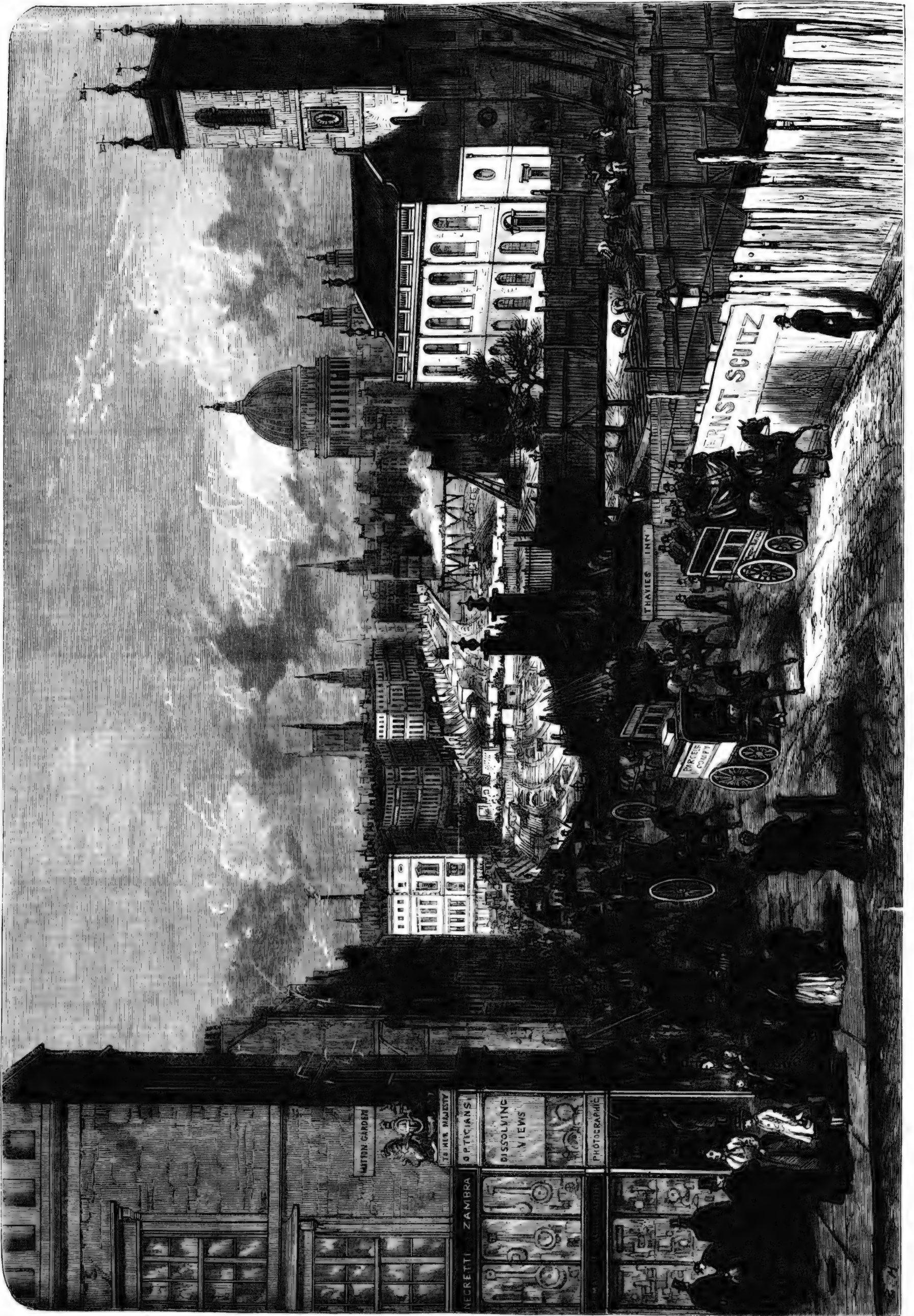
The original capture, then, was a lawless and wholly unjustifiable act; justice, though frequently demanded, has been denied; the sale of the cargo and of the vessel was illegal; and all the proceedings taken against the vessel were not only contrary to justice, and therefore void, but they must have been taken with a full conviction of their illegality, and were adopted, as her Majesty's Government are constrained to believe, for the purpose, or in aid of the purpose, of covering or concealing the original lawless act of the captain and crew of the Spanish guarda-costas.

In this state of things her Majesty's Government must decline to accept the conclusion set forth in General Calonge's letter of the 9th of January, that the confiscation decreed against the *Queen Victoria* shall be declared void, so as to open the road for the Consul and other persons interested to present themselves and defend their interests before the proper tribunal. On the contrary, her Majesty's Government must at once insist on the immediate restoration of the ship and cargo, or their full value, and on proper pecuniary indemnity to her captain and crew; accompanied by an expression of regret addressed to her Majesty's Government for the outrage committed on the British flag.

You will furnish General Calonge with a copy of this despatch, which is the reply of her Majesty's Government to his letter of the 9th of January, and you will express the earnest hope of her Majesty's Government that the Government of her Catholic Majesty will not allow this matter to assume the proportion of a serious difference between Great Britain and Spain.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) STANLEY.

BELGIAN VOLUNTEER RECEPTION.—It is said that the fund intended to be raised for the suitable reception of the Belgians, who treated our volunteers in such a princely manner last year at Brussels, falls lamentably short of the necessary amount, inasmuch as up to the present time only about £100 have been subscribed. Lord Bury, the chairman; Lieutenant-Colonel Manby, and Captain Cockcroft, the honorary secretaries; and Captain Mackenzie, the honorary treasurer, are making every effort to raise the necessary funds, but at present with indifferent success. It will be unfortunate if, even in hospitality, we allow ourselves to be beaten by our foreign neighbours; and it really is a duty on the part of the public as well as the volunteers to come forward in aid of the fund, and place themselves in communication with the honorary secretaries, Belgian Reception Committee, Orderly-room, Somerset House.



THE WORKS AT THE SITE OF THE INTENDED VIADUCT, HOLBORN HILL.

THE HOLBORN VIADUCT WORKS.

HOLBORN VALLEY, so well known to all Londoners, will soon be so utterly transformed as to be no longer recognisable by even its own especial denizens. Indeed, but little remains now to show what the features of the site once were. The old buildings have nearly all been demolished; and the whole of Holborn-hill, from its bottom, at the level of Farringdon-street, up nearly to Fetter-lane, is now inclosed with tall wooden hoardings, which leave but just enough width, on the right-hand side of the street, for a single cab or omnibus to pass on its way from the City westward. The remainder of the roadway, with the site of the many houses demolished on the left-hand side, is in the same condition as that of so many other parts of London at the present time—a place given up to contractors, diggers and builders, to navvies and bricklayers, to carts and wheelbarrows, to piles of materials for masonry, and huge frames of timber, by which the rising masonry is upheld during its construction. The great business here in hand is, of course, that of preparing the foundations of the Holborn-valley viaduct, which the Corporation of London are constructing, on Mr. Haywood's plan. The contractors for this part of the work are Messrs. Hill and Keddell; the engineer is Mr. Neath; Mr. Lidstone is clerk of the works. Our Engraving exhibits the present state of the operations.

HUCKNALL-TORKARD CHURCH AND BYRON'S TOMB.

OF the early history of the church of Hucknall-Torkard, the last resting-place of Byron, which is situated about three miles from Newstead Abbey, but little can be said calculated to interest the general reader, save that at the Norman Conquest the greater part of the lands were of the fee of Ralph de Burun, from whom the poet deemed it no small boast to trace his descent. From the fact of the village being now chiefly inhabited by stocking-makers, it has assumed that sort of half-manufacturing look, which harmonises but little with the rural and romantic beauties of the surrounding neighbourhood. It is long, straggling, and ill-arranged; still, the venerable little church at the upper end of the town street contains the tomb of the poet, and therefore the whole place is invested with a degree of interest, from which faults of the "picturesque" hardly detract.

The church is of considerable antiquity, especially the principal or south porch. In Thoroton's time, the windows were decorated with the armorial bearings of the Annesleys, Greys of Sandiacre, Willoughbys of Wollaton, and other eminent families, in addition to those of the Byrons. There is a tower with three bells, a nave and side aisles.

The first monumental record of the Byrons is a mural monument to the memory of Richard, Lord Byron, who died Oct. 1, 1679, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. He and seven of his brothers faithfully served King Charles in the civil wars with their whole fortunes. On the southern wall of the chancel is a plain Grecian tablet of white marble, bearing the following inscription:—"In the

vault beneath, where many of his ancestors and his mother are buried, lie the remains of George Gordon Noel Byron, Lord Byron of Rochdale, in the county of Lancaster, the author of 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage.' He was born in London, on the 22nd of January, 1788. He died at Missolonghi, in western Greece, on the 19th of April, 1824, engaged in the glorious attempt to restore that country to her ancient freedom and renown. His sister, the Hon. Augusta Mary Leigh, placed this tablet to his memory."

The heroic manner in which the poet devoted both his fortune and his life in the noble attempt to regenerate unhappy Greece is too well known to need repetition here, but the following account of his last moments, taken from a history of Greece, by Rizo, will doubtless be acceptable to the reader:—"Enchanted with the bravery of the Souliots and their manners, which recalled to him the simplicity of Homeric times, he assisted at their banquets; he learnt their pyrrhic dance, and

he sang in unison the airs of Riga, harmonising his steps to their national mandolin. Alas! he carried too far his benevolent condescension. Towards the beginning of April, he went to hunt in the marshes of Missolonghi. He entered on foot in the shallows; he came out quite wet, and following the example of the *Pallikares*, accustomed to the malaria, he would not change his clothes, and persisted upon having them dried upon his body. Attacked with an inflammation upon the lungs, he refused to let himself be bled, notwithstanding the entreaties of his physician, of Mavrocordato and all his friends. His malady quickly grew worse. On the fourth day Byron became delirious; by bleeding he recovered from drowsiness, but without being able to speak; then, finding his end approaching, he gave his attendants to understand that he wished to take leave of the Captains and all the Souliots. As each approached, Byron made a sign to them to kiss him. At last he expired in the arms of Mavrocordato, whilst pronouncing the names of his daughter or of Greece."

His Lordship's remains were brought to London in the brig *Florida*. On being landed the body was (under the direction of the executors, Mr. Hobhouse and Mr. Hanson) removed to the house of Sir Edward Knatchbull, in Great George-street, Westminster, where it lay in state during Friday and Saturday, July 9 and 10. It was then conveyed in a hearse, by slow stages, to Nottingham. Here it again lay in state, in a room at the then Black's Head, in High-street, where it was visited by curious thousands. On Friday, July 16, the remains were removed to their last resting-place, followed by the Corporation of Nottingham and a large concourse of spectators. The last sad rites finished, the body was deposited close by the side of his mother's, in the family vault within the old grey walls of a quiet village church, where, "after life's fitful fever, he sleeps well."

Many are the pilgrims who seek the hallowed spot of ground which contains the remains of one whose ardent love of liberty and transcendent genius caused his name to ring through the civilised world. Distinguished foreigners, as well as his own admiring countrymen, have not yet ceased to pay their silent homage at his tomb; and many a tribute, in prose and verse, has been offered to his memory in almost every language of Europe.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP ROYAL ALFRED.

THE armour-plated converted wooden frigate *Royal Alfred*, 18 guns, 4068 tons, 800-horse power, Captain F. A. Herbert, fitted at Portsmouth as the flagship of Vice-Admiral Sir George Rodney Mundy, K.C.B., the appointed successor of Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope in the command of her Majesty's ships on the North American and West India station, recently underwent her trial of speed over the measured mile in Stokes Bay, at deep low draught. This ship is one of five produced by the Duke of Somerset's board, by the sanction of Parliament in 1861, to add as rapidly as possible under the circumstances to the numbers of the ships forming the ironclad fleet of the country by their conversion from line-of-battle



LORD BYRON'S TOMB IN HUCKNALL-TORKARD CHURCH.



HUCKNALL-TORKARD CHURCH, NEAR NEWSTEAD ABBEY, NOTTS.

ships partly built to iron-clad frigates. The Royal Oak, Ocean, Prince Consort, and Caledonia were completed, according to the original intention of the board, with 4½ in. armour-plating all round their hulls from their upper-deck beams to a certain distance below the water-line; but the Royal Alfred was converted and plated in a very different manner, and according to designs submitted to the Admiralty by the Chief Constructor of the Navy. As a merely converted ship the Royal Alfred could only carry a certain weight of armament and armour, and as both were by Mr. Reed's plan to be very materially increased in powers of offence and defence, a "reconstruction" of her weights in those respects became a part of the new plan. Her armament has therefore been altered from forty guns of small calibre and power to eighteen guns of tremendous power—viz., ten 12-ton 9-in. muzzle-loading rifles and eight 6½-ton of the same description. In the weight of her armament the Royal Alfred is at present only equalled by the Bellerophon in the Navy of this country, and stands first of all other vessels forming the navies of Europe or of America. In the new arrangement of the ship's armour the complete system has been abandoned, and a certain portion of the hull above the water-line left, forward of the foremast and abaft the mainmast, has been left entirely without armour, while the weight of this discarded plating has been added to the armour covering the central battery of ten 12-ton guns by giving an increased thickness there to the plating. The armour of the ship now, therefore, is disposed over her hull in a complete water-line belt, from which rises amidships on each side armour plating of 6 in. in thickness, covering in the maindeck battery of 12-ton guns. Armour-plated bulkheads, built up across the maindeck at each end of this central armour-plating, inclose the battery of 12-ton guns in an iron-cased citadel of oblong form. The weakest part of the whole of the battery's protective armour appears to the eye to be around the edges of each of the gunports; but this has been provided for by fixing round each port and under the outer 6 in. armour-plating hammered wrought-iron shields or strengthening plates, with ports worked in their centre, which increases the thickness of plating round each port from the six inches of the outer plating to a total of ten inches. The bows and stern in all their curved lines are covered with 4½ in. plating, rising upwards, like that of the central battery, from the water-line armour-belt, and through this bow and stern armour four 6½-ton guns fire in a line with the ship's keel. The other four 6½-ton guns are mounted on the upper deck as chase guns, or for long-range firing. In converting the ship to her present form special care has been taken to give ample room between each port for the working at the extremest possible ranges of her immense ordnance, the distance from centre to centre of the ports in her central battery being no less than 25 ft. The iron carriages and their slides which mount the ship's 12-ton guns are much heavier and stronger than the carriages and slides supplied to the Bellerophon for her guns; but they are still but single-sided carriages, and do not therefore equal in strength and lasting power the box-girder form recommended by Admiral Key's Gun Carriage Committee.

The conversion of the ship to her present form was effected with every care for the strength of her hull as a heavily-plated vessel, and a vessel also intended to carry ordnance of exceptional weight. While the Royal Alfred is an admirable specimen of an armoured frigate, produced from the frame of an unarmoured two-decked ship, she at the same time possesses those points of structural weakness which are inseparable from wooden-built ships clothed with armour-plating. As she is, however, she is a heavily-armed, heavily-plated ship, wonderfully handy under steam, having a fair rate of speed, and possessing altogether a capacity of doing a long and hard day's fighting. Her present form is mainly due to the foresight and energy of Rear-Admiral Robinson, the Controller of the Navy. She was converted and fitted, according to his notions, as an Admiral's fighting flagship in tropical waters, and his judgment in the matter was more than confirmed by the opinion expressed by Rear-Admiral Goldsborough, commanding the United States squadron in Europe, during his visit to Portsmouth Yard last autumn, when he declared the Royal Alfred to be a far superior "fighting machine" for general purposes than either the Warrior or the Minotaur, then lying alongside her in the steam-basin of the yard.

The engines of the Royal Alfred are by Maudslay and Field, supplied when the Admiralty of the day contemplated sending the ship afloat as an unarmoured screw line-of-battle ship. They are of the ordinary two-cylinder type of the firm, of 800 nominal horse power, with cylinders of 85 in. diameter and a 4 ft. stroke of piston, and drive a Maudslay-Griffiths screw set at a pitch of 27 ft. 6 in., the diameter being 19 ft. 2½ in., with a length of the blades of 4 ft.

The result of the trials was considered highly satisfactory, the ship having fully realised the expectations entertained as to the rate of speed of which she was capable.

LORD BROUGHAM ON HOUSEHOLD SUFFRAGE.—Lord Brougham writes from Cannes to the Times:—"I trouble you with a few lines on the important question of household suffrage. It ought to be granted fairly and frankly, and not loaded with conditions and exceptions which render it unavailing. The only condition that I see is an absolutely essential one, that the house should have been owned or occupied by tenants or lodgers for two years. I should not much object to a rating of a certain amount; but I think that immaterial, as my reliance is upon the two years for owners, or tenants, or lodgers; but I would punish with the treadmill all who receive or offer bribes. When the slave trade existed its profits were such that men ran the risk of capture and forfeiture; but when my Act made it punishable by transportation, no one chose to run the risk, and the abominable traffic was entirely extirpated. I believe the same result would happen with bribery."—BROUGHAM.

A WAR OF FOOLS.—We should like to see the Prussians retire, without the French entering; for simple good sense (that poor, wretched, humble, and despised thing) says that if Luxembourg is for Luxemburgers that the Luxemburgers are and wish to remain united with Holland—Luxemburgers, Luxemburg, and the fortress of Luxembourg belong neither to Prussia, nor to Germany, nor to France; but the natural, rational, and legitimate solution is that the Prussians should retire and the French not occupy. But they are Vauban's fortifications! Vauban's? Truly, that is irresistible. But let us proceed. This strategic point is necessary to France against Germany; it is necessary to Germany—say the Germans—against France. Ah! gentlemen of Germany and of France, since you will not and cannot cede Luxembourg, agree to retire, both of you, and leave Luxembourg Luxembourg. But this is too simple and just to go down. And yet it is the only way of saving us from a war for an atom—an abominable war, and which, if it takes place, we shall ask permission to call "the war of fools." Such a war would be the disgrace of both nations and the disgrace of humanity.—*Le Temps*.

VOLUNTEER CAPTIVITY GRANT.—There has been laid before Parliament a report made to the Secretary of State for War by a committee of volunteer commanding officers in London, who have recently met and considered the question whether the present Parliamentary grant is sufficient for its purpose. The committee sent out a circular to all commanding officers, and above 650 replies were received. These answers show clearly that the opinion of the force is that the grant should be increased, and that those who freely and without pay give their service to the State should be relieved from the necessity of personal expenditure in doing so. One captain, in a private letter to the chairman, states that his company has cost him £500; and it is confidently believed that there are very many instances of similar, and indeed much larger, sums being expended by officers in support of their corps. The men themselves are also put to expense; and the committee have come to the conclusion that an additional money grant is necessary to the efficiency and permanency of the force, and that there is in many cases immediate danger of a collapse of a portion of it unless such a grant is made. A large proportion of the officers are in favour of an increase in the capitation grant; but other modes of allowance are suggested, such as for travelling expenses, equipments, or allowance when in camp. Nothing contributes more to the efficiency of a volunteer corps than its assembling in camp for drill; and it would be well if encouragement were given to encamp and brigade together, and if camps could be formed along with militia and regular regiments. The volunteers, too, unless supplied with certain equipments, cannot be in a condition to enter upon active service at short notice. The committee suggest an additional sum of £1 for efficiency, retaining the present 10s. for extra efficiency; and as regards artillery and engineers an increase also of the extra grant from 10s. to £1 to meet their extra expenses. The committee raise the question whether the prescribed number of drills for efficiency might not be increased from nine to twelve. They are of opinion that the expenditure of the money grant, when earned, should be at the discretion of the commanding officer, and that its payment should be more prompt than under the present system, which sometimes makes it necessary to borrow money for current expenditure. They express their hope, reasonably enough, that if the increased grant be made it will be sanctioned in the current year.

STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We have received a copy of the monthly report of the Director of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States, which is prepared and published under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, in accordance with an Act of Congress approved last July. The report for January, 1867, is admirably summarised and compiled, and contains a mass of instructive statistics, so lucidly arranged that the various tables will be read with deep interest by those who desire authentic information as to American trade and commerce. One hundred and eleven customs districts are named. The first table gives a statement of foreign merchandise imported into the United States during the month of January. Amongst the articles free of duty the principal items are:—Horsehair, 292,736 lb.; indigo, 109,457 lb.; cotton and linen rags for the manufacture of paper, 3,606,955 lb., value 162,081 dols.; and silk, either raw, or reeled from the cocoon, 39,690 lb., value 193,669 dols. Amongst dutiable commodities the principal places are held by tea, 1,409,505 lb.; brown sugar, 4,118,149 lb.; coffee, 9,849,175 lb.; salt, nearly 20,000,000 lb.; and soda, about 5,000,000 lb. Next to these in importance come textile fabrics and the raw materials of which they are manufactured. The various kinds of cotton goods make 9,990,155 square yards, linen fabrics amount to 6,673,364 square yards, and the finer kind of woollen cloths to 6,849,505 yards. The total value of the dutiable articles imported during the month is set down as 21,834,608 dols., and of the articles free of duty as 1,105,040 dols. The list of exports for the month is not nearly so long, and its principal items consist of breadstuffs, cotton, timber, mineral oils, provisions, and tobacco. Amongst the breadstuffs the largest exportations are Indian corn, set down at 555,882 bushels, and wheat flour at 36,333 barrels. The exports of cotton exceeded 80,000,000 lb., valued at 26,000,000 dols. No less than 4,124,660 lb. of oilcake was sent out of the country, and the quantity of refined petroleum is estimated at 2,909,520 gals. In the list of provisions, beef is set down at 1,427,508 lb.; cheese at 2,783,964 lb.; hams and bacon at 2,501,667 lb.; pork, 2,472,663 lb.; and lard, 3,945,304 lb. Tobacco reaches the enormous figure of 6,000,000 lb. The total value of the exports for the month is 37,663,743 dols., exceeding the value of the imports by nearly 15,000,000 dols. The return for the half year ending Dec. 31, 1866, and containing returns from seventy-two ports, gives the total value of the imports for that period as 20,923,408,192 dols., and of the exports as 18,041,599,437 dols. The report also contains a very long and elaborate table, showing the comparative value of the exports of domestic produce from the United States, beginning with the year 1860 and ending with 1866. These statistics are specially interesting, as enabling us to form an estimate of the effect of the civil war on American commerce. Taking, for instance, cotton as the staple article of produce, we find that the exports of 1860 were estimated at 191,000,000 dols.; in the next year, when the war had begun, they sank to 34,000,000 dols., or little more than a sixth; in 1862 the value was only 1,180,113 dols., or about the one hundred and fiftieth part of the exports of 1860. In 1863 there was some improvement, the value of the cotton being nearly 7,000,000 dols.; in 1864 it almost reached 10,000,000 dols.; and in 1865 was less than 7,000,000 dols.; but such is the recuperative power of American trade, that, the war having ended, we find it set down as 274,960,453 dols. for the year 1866. But the cotton trade, of course suffered far more from the war than any other. The exports of provisions seem to have gone on steadily increasing throughout the four years which almost shut up the principal cotton markets. The value of the hams and bacon sent out of the United States rose from 2,273,768 dols. in 1860, to nearly 19,000,000 dols. in 1863; and has been reduced to 6,250,000 dols. in 1866. The value of the tobacco exported was nearly 16,000,000 dols. in 1860, and reached 41,000,000 dols. in 1865, which, however, seems to have been an exceptional year, as the produce of 1866 is only valued at 29,500,000 dols. A new trade, which has already assumed gigantic proportions, is that in petroleum. The value of the exports of refined petroleum alone has increased from 6,087,967 dols. in 1846, to 18,169,186 dols. in 1866.

The report contains several very interesting tables showing the current prices of labour in different occupations for the month of December, 1866. These prove that, as a rule, skilled labour is very fairly remunerated in the United States. The average wages of a bricklayer, for instance, appear to be 2½ dols. per day, but in some places the minimum is 3 dols. or 3½ dols., and the maximum 4½ dols. A blacksmith is not so well paid, as his wages commence at 1½ dols., and the average seems to be about 2 dols. One of the best paid of all trades is carpentering. In parts of Massachusetts a carpenter can earn from 3 dols. to 4 dols. a day, and in New York he will receive half a dollar more. A stonecutter earns about the same as a bricklayer. Sedentary trades are not so highly remunerated. The average of shoemakers and tailors is 2 dols., although in New York and Boston a good workman will make 3 dols. to 4 dols. per diem. In some places weavers begin at 75c., but the average is about 1½ dols. Factory hands receive generally between 8 dols. and 12 dols. a week, although in parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island the wages of a good hand are set down as 18 dols. The wages of domestic servants are rather high. A chambermaid can earn from 6 dols. to 16 dols. a month, and a female cook from 8 dols. to 20 dols. In Boston, however, a waitress receives from 30 dols. to 40 dols. The wages of a farm labourer in the Northern States range between 15 dols. and 40 dols. a month, but the average seems to be about 25 dols. In parts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts he begins at 30 dols.; but in Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio, and Maryland, where negro labour is cheap, he is not so well treated, and must content himself with a maximum pay of 2½ dols. 20c. Gardeners and nurserymen are still more fortunate. They can earn from about 30 dols. to 70 dols. a month, and in parts of Massachusetts and Connecticut they sometimes receive as much as 90 dols. The average, however, is about 45 dols., and the same rate of pay is given to railroad labourers, who are best paid in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York, where their wages sometimes amount to 80 dols. or 100 dols. per month.

Another feature consists of official reports from United States Consuls on the trade of the places in which they are located with the United States. Only five such documents are contained in the report for January, and the best come from the Consuls at Lyons, and at St. John, New Brunswick. Finally, there is a table showing the shipments for the quarter ending Dec. 31 of foreign and domestic merchandise in American vessels from the port of New York, via the Isthmus of Panama to San Francisco.

TAMMANY HALL, NEW YORK.—According to the American papers the famous Tammany Hall, in New York, has been sold for 150,000 dols., and is to be converted into a newspaper establishment. It was built in 1811. Soon after the declaration of independence the "Sons of Liberty" formed a society whose object was "to connect in indissoluble bonds of friendship American brethren of known attachment to the political rights of human nature and the liberties of the country." This society was called after St. Tammany, in ridicule of the loyalist societies of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. David. Tammany was a celebrated Indian chief in Penn's time. The officers of the society were a grand sachem, thirteen sachems, a sagamore, and a wickinkie. Some distinguished men have been grand sachems. The sale of Tammany Hall, in March, 1867, is described as having taken place in the month of winds, in the season of snows, in the year of the Republic '91. Of late years the government of the society has been in the hands of the roughs of the democratic party.

CROWNING A KING IN HUNGARY.—The coronation ceremony in Hungary, according to the ancient custom, is regulated in the following manner:—1. The King prepares for the coronation by a fast of three days. 2. The ceremony can only take place on a Sunday. 3. The King is bound to take the oath in public. 4. The Bishop prays, to ask for the blessing of Heaven on him who is about to be crowned. 5. In the litanies the saints are asked to intercede with God in favour of the King, who during that time is kneeling. 6. The Bishop consecrates the right arm of the King at the wrist, elbow, and shoulder. 7. Then commences the solemn mass, which is continued to the epistle. The Bishop next takes the sword, and, after having prayed, offers it to the King, saying, "Gird on this weapon, but remember that the saints conquered by the faith and not by the sword." 8. He places the crown on the King's head. 9. He puts the sceptre in his hand. 10. He leads him to the throne, and the mass is continued to the end. The part of the Bishop belongs by right to the Primate of Hungary. As to the taking of the oath to the Constitution, this question remains to be settled between the King and the State.

BREECH-LOADING SMALL-ARMS.

ON Monday night a lecture was delivered at the United Service Institution, by Captain Majendie, Royal Artillery, upon "Military Breech-loading Small-arms." The lecturer commenced by pointing out that the adoption of breech-loading by no means dates from the late German war, as is too frequently supposed. It is not a little remarkable that the Chancellor of the Exchequer fell into this blunder in his speech on the Budget last Thursday night, when he said that the battle of Sadowa had "created revolution in our small arms." Captain Majendie showed that Sharp's breech-loading carbines were introduced into the British service for cavalry ten years ago, since when Green's, Terry's, and Westley Richards' were brought forward, the last-named finding most favour, as being the best of the capping-arms. At that time, and until the explosion of the powder magazine at Eritz led to a series of experiments, it was generally believed that cartridges carrying their own means of ignition were liable to be easily exploded by accident, and that one ignited in a barrel would certainly cause the blowing up of the whole magazine. It is satisfactory to find by the latest experiments that even ½ lb. of powder fired in a closed iron cylinder, containing 700 service breech-loading cartridges, failed to ignite one of them, though the screws were broken and the lid of the cylinder thrown off with violence. After the Dan-German war Lord De Grey appointed a Committee to "report on the advisability of arming the infantry either in whole or part with breech-loaders." Four meetings were sufficient, and on July 11, 1864, the Committee reported that the whole of the infantry should have breech-loading rifles. In order to utilize the existing stock of arms and to lose no time in the exhaustive series of experiments necessary to settle the various claims of large and small bores, weights, lengths, and material of barrels, different systems of rifling, &c., it was determined to convert the Enfield rifles, and an advertisement was issued in August, 1864, inviting gunmakers and others to submit propositions for the alteration. Many plans were sent in, but all were unsuitable except eight, which were selected for trial. Finally only five came to the post—Westley Richards, Mont Storn, Wilson, Green, Snider. The first of these made by far the best practice, but was comparatively slow in its fire, and the breech-loading apparatus demanded the sacrifice of so large a portion of the wood in the Enfield stock that the weapon was rendered far too weak to stand the rough usage of war. The Mont Storn failed in the strength of the breech-loading apparatus. The Snider was the only system prepared for cartridges carrying their own ignition. Its practice was bad, but its fire was the most rapid, and the defect in accuracy seemed to lie in the cartridge, which was susceptible of improvement. Colonel Boxer prepared a new cartridge, which gave excellent results, and, as by this time the value of self-ignition has been fully recognised, the Snider was introduced, superseding the Mont Storn, which had been provisionally adopted, but rejected again because its breech-loading apparatus was deficient in strength, and because it required percussion-caps, for which the soldier might search his pouch in vain with weary muscles and chill fingers. With regard to the reports of a general failure in the Snider system, Captain Majendie said that the arm must be regarded from two points of view—as a breech-loader, and as an arm of precision. On the first head the weapon has been a complete success, as all reports from officers combine to prove. The precision of the short Enfield, the rifling of which has a rapid twist, has never been questioned, and the difficulties which occurred, and for a short time threw a cloud over the long Enfield, have been easily and successfully overcome. Out of a total of 98,840 rounds which have been fired at Woolwich up to the end of last week, the total failures from every cause, including misses of the target at 500 yards, split cartridges, &c., only amounted to 341, or almost exactly one third per cent. The weapon of the future is not yet decided upon. It may possibly be a magazine arm which can be generally used as an ordinary breech-loader, but which will contain a reservoir of charges ready to be pumped out against an enemy on emergency. The advantages of breech-loaders are well known and acknowledged, but among them should not be forgotten a practical improvement in the soldier's shooting, caused by his position when loading being such as to keep his eye on his enemy, and deliver a low and effective fire with a minimum of fatigue.

During an animated discussion which followed the lecture a Chassepot rifle was exhibited. Its calibre was only 433 of an inch, according to Mr. Christie; charge of powder 85 grains. The calibre of the Snider converted Enfield is .577 in.; and charge, 70 grains. The Chassepot is certainly more complicated than the Snider, and must be made *de novo*; but it has the advantages of being lighter and shorter in the barrel than the long Snider Enfield, the ordinary weapon for infantry of the line. The price of the new French arm is 57l., while the conversion of the Enfield on the Snider principle costs considerably under 20s.

A SPANISH PRIZE COURT.

CONSUL GRAHAM DUNLOP gives the following description of the proceedings before the prize court or commission assembled at Cadiz, last month, for the re-examination of some of the crew of the Tornado with a view to the Court ratifying the former evidence and repeating the sentence:—"Everybody is smoking, and some are whispering and gossiping to their neighbours. A prisoner—say, John Young, a Scotch lad, sharp enough, but who speaks only the Glasgow dialect of broad Scotch with any ease to himself—is placed for examination. The president, puffing a long regalia cigar, asks lazily, in Spanish, a lengthy question, including in it two or three separate inquiries. This series of interrogations is roughly and orally translated into a long, stumbling sentence, of very indifferent English, full of Latin derivatives, by the Spanish interpreter, Poggio—English which even an educated man could with difficulty comprehend, but which is quite unintelligible to the young Glasgow engineer, although he does catch some of the words. He asks that the question be repeated. Poggio (crusty at having to take his cigar out of his mouth and bother himself) repeats the question, but this time with longer English words interspersed. The lad miscomprehends the whole meaning, and makes the most contradictory and absurd replies in Scotch, half of which Scotch Poggio does not take up. He, however, makes his own translation, as he pleases, of the Scotch into Castilian, addressing himself to the president, who instructs the assessor, who dictates in Spanish to the clerk what is to be written down, which generally differs, more or less, in words or meaning from what Poggio exactly said. Then other questions follow on the reply. The prisoner becomes bamboozled, Poggio gets into a passion, and so on, *ad caput*. At one time the President asked a simple question in Spanish, "¿Quien lo empleó usted?" which means "Who gave you the work?" or "Who employed you at this work?" An assistant interpreter called Eady (it was not Poggio this time) put it in the following words, "Who proportioned you at the job?" Of course, the prisoner could not understand the question, which was incomprehensible in English; he never understood it, and replied wrongly. On another occasion, when Poggio was transmuting some rather difficult Spanish into very rickety English for a Scotch engineer lad (Walker), who was puzzled at some long words in the interpretation, I presumed to offer an explanation of the sentence, as I can speak tolerable Scotch; but was immediately and somewhat peremptorily informed that I had "no business to do so." My elucidation was stopped. The youth remained ignorant of what was meant, and answered erroneously. It did not happen to be of much consequence, so I submitted to be silenced. I do not think that the president intended any want of courtesy to me; but his jealousy of my presence caused him to act as he did—that is, unjustly towards the prisoner, and it might have been an important point of evidence. I have never, even in the East, witnessed such one-sided and unjust forms of examination. Any ordinary Pacha's divan in Turkey or Egypt would have been ashamed of such a rude and barbarous exhibition of ignorance and disregard of the common principles of equity, and would have avoided the display of such unseemly eagerness to take mean advantage of the prisoners under question. I now perfectly comprehend the reason why I was prevented being present at the long inquiries and examinations of the Tornado prisoners, which lasted (off and on) from August to January; on the result of which examinations, where no defence was listened to, Admiral Quessada condemned the prisoners and the vessel, and sentenced her without giving any hearing to her owners, as a prize to Spain. It is now clear also why the Gerona was sent quietly out of the way seven months ago on a long foreign voyage. Uncomfortable evidence respecting the cruel treatment of the prisoners, and the illegality of the orders for capture, would have oozed out, even from the Spanish officers on board the Gerona."

A THROW FOR LIFE.—A singular duel has just taken place at Berlin between a journeyman silversmith and another artisan. The arms selected were a bottle of sulphuric acid. The arrangement was that whichever of the two adversaries threw the lowest with dice should swallow the contents of the fatal phial. Chance favoured the silversmith, who immediately poured out a glass of the liquor and handed it to his adversary, who unhesitatingly drank off the liquid; but, to the astonishment of his antagonist, instead of falling senseless, smacked his lips and asked for another glass. The seconds had acted on the sensible idea of substituting arrack for the corrosive fluid. It is hardly necessary to say that the affair terminated in a reconciliation.

AMERICAN AMENITIES.—It is a disgraceful characteristic of the American nation that, after having chosen its chief magistrate because he has elevated himself from a low social position, it should take every opportunity of insulting him on that very account. Never-ending gibes used to be hurled at President Lincoln because he had been a rail-splitter, and now President Johnson is ridiculed because he has been a tailor. A motion on the subject of diplomatic costume having been brought forward a short time since in Congress, a Mr. Wood moved the following amendment:—"Provided that diplomatic agents shall not be permitted to wear any Court dress except such as shall be prescribed and the patterns drawn by the chief tailor of the nation, who is now presiding over its destinies." This discourteous allusion to the President was received with shouts of laughter, although the man who made it had himself been a mechanic. In aristocratic England no man dare taunt another with the lowliness of his origin without receiving from the good feeling of the public immediate and signal rebuke. It is only in free America that such a thing is tolerated and applauded.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE repudiation by an Accidental Insurance Company of its liability on a policy effected on the life of Mr. Parkin Jeffcock has excited comment in the columns of several of our contemporaries. Mr. Jeffcock lost his life, as doubtless many will remember, in endeavouring to save the lives of the workmen at the Oaks colliery. He was insured for £1000 in an accidental insurance company, which now refuses payment on the ground that his death was caused by his own voluntary act. We can easily understand the indignation manifested in some of the journals at this proceeding. If we do not share therein, it is simply because we believe the defence put forward by the company is utterly untenable. The danger which Mr. Jeffcock incurred can scarcely be denominated a voluntary act within the exceptions named in the policy. It is an act of mere free will but of positive and absolute duty for an employer to endeavour to the utmost—at the hazard of his own life, if need be—to protect the lives of those in his employ when such danger arises in the ordinary course of their labour. We will not push the argument upon the more doubtful ground of the duty of every citizen to do his utmost for the preservation of the lives of others. The descent into the mine by Mr. Jeffcock was as much within the sphere of his proper work as is to firemen, icemen, policemen, and soldiers, the common peril of their various avocations. We feel strongly that in this case the company have committed a sad error in their view of their own legal position, and we trust that before long such error may receive a proper judicial correction. Meanwhile, we will narrate for the edification of our readers another little tale of an accidental insurance company. The one to which we now refer was called The Accidental and Marine Insurance Company (Limited). A poor mechanic who had insured therein lost his life by accident while the policy was yet in force. His widow, who was left all but penniless, applied for the insurance, and learned that the affairs of the company were being wound up in Chancery. There was some hazy prospect of an uncertain dividend. But to enable her to receive this, she must first administer, and the administration would have cost her some few pounds. No one would advance her the sum for stamps and fees, because the money would possibly only be thrown away after all. Another "accidental" office takes up the policies of such insurers as are yet alive and unhurt. Here is another instance:—An insurer whose wife's life was endangered by the outrageous conduct of a half-tipsy crawler, struck the offender, and thereby irreparably maimed his own hand against the fellow's teeth. He is refused compensation because he is said to have received the injury from fighting! We have seen the letter in which this shabby excuse is put forward, and which actually states that he ought to have obtained the aid of the police as his "natural protectors!"

One Felix Jackson was charged at Guildhall with having attempted to pick pockets. He had been watched by two policemen who testified to the fact. He was arrested on the spot and found to be wearing a coat so contrived as to enable him to use his fingers while apparently sauntering about with his hands in his pockets. One of the policemen stated that the prisoner had been accompanied by a person, apparently a confederate, who had been seen in court on the morning of the hearing. Hereupon one of the auditors was observed to raise his cap so as to cover the lower part of his face. An officer of the court suddenly snatched away the cap, and its owner was at once identified as the prisoner's companion. Moreover, he was also found to be wearing a coat with sham pockets. He was at once placed in the dock by the side of his friend, and Sir R. W. Carden sentenced each of them to three months' hard labour.

A young fellow of twenty-one, named Henry Gamble, went to the house of his grandfather and was informed that the old gentleman was not at home. He put on a mask, and told the servant-maid that he had others outside to assist him if she should resist his going up stairs. The girl, being terrified, ran out to seek for aid. Young Gamble went to his grandfather's bed-room and seized a loaded pistol, with which he made off. He was pursued, when he presented the pistol in the face of a neighbour who was chasing him, and pulled the trigger. For this he was tried, apparently to his great hardship, since it appears his conduct, if not exactly praiseworthy, had been so far strictly legal; the pistol was of old-fashioned construction, and required priming. It did not explode, and no one could say whether it had or had not been primed. Presenting a flint-lock weapon is not sufficient offence to support a criminal charge unless the arm be proved to have been primed. So the prisoner was discharged upon the indictment for attempt to murder, and tried upon a second for attempting to steal the pistol. The jury acquitted the prisoner of felonious intent in taking the pistol, and he was accordingly discharged.

A woman was last week convicted of perjury, which she had committed at the Surrey Sessions in order to screen a young relative. She attempted to excuse herself by saying that she had not "kissed the book." She was sentenced to four months' hard labour. We mention this case because a vulgar error prevails that by any evasion of the common formalities used in the administration of an oath, the conscience may be quieted and the penalty of perjury avoided while giving false evidence. It may be remembered that in one of Hogarth's "Idle Apprentices" series, a ruffianly accomplice of a prisoner is represented bribing an usher to allow him to be sworn holding the book in his left hand. So, in one of the "Election" prints, by the same painter, there is depicted a squabble between two lawyers as to the validity of the oath of an elector, the place of whose lost right hand is supplied by an iron hook.

The bill of indictment against Colonel Nelson and Lieutenant Brand has been returned "not found" by the grand jury at the Central Criminal Court, after a most elaborate charge by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn tending powerfully towards a contrary result. That charge was such a masterpiece of research, and argument, and conciseness, directed by the highest spirit of independence and impartiality, that we cannot venture upon abridging it for these columns, while, at the same time, we cannot possibly afford space for it in its entirety. Those who desire to peruse it must do so in the columns of our daily contemporaries.

POLICE.

A SPECIMEN OF A BETTING MAN.—William Baker, one of the bookmakers frequenting Hyde Park, was brought before Mr. Tyrwhitt, on a warrant charging him with assaulting Abraham Barnett, of Langham-street.

Abraham Barnett, the complainant, said that on March 26 he was crossing Hyde Park, having a bag of clothes on his back, in the company of a friend, when he stopped where the defendant was standing with a number of betting men and looked at his betting-book. His friend asked him if he knew the defendant; he said he did not. The defendant came up and kicked him. He asked the defendant why he did so, and the defendant struck him violently on the face, blackening both his eyes.

In reply to questions from the defendant, complainant said he did not ask any one if the defendant was a respectable man. Since he had taken out the warrant he had been threatened by the defendant's friends.

Michael Coghlan saw the defendant strike the complainant, having a ring on his finger, which he took off as soon as he saw the complainant's eye was bleeding. A constable was fetched, but he did not take the defendant into custody, although he saw that complainant's eye was bleeding.

Mr. Tyrwhitt said it was the duty of the constable to have taken the defendant into custody. This was a matter to be inquired into.

Witness, in reply to the defendant, said the complainant did not take off his coat to fight him. The spectacles which the complainant had on at the time were smashed.

The defendant called Mr. Herman Merry, of 11, North-street, who stated that on the day in question he was in Hyde Park backing horses. The complainant came up and wanted to back horses, but as defendant's prices were not taken he was told to leave. There was afterwards a fight between them, and because the complainant got the worst he got the warrant.

On cross examination, witness said he betted when he felt inclined, but was not what was commonly known as a "welscher."

Charles Fox, Brompton-road, butcher, saw the complainant and defendant having words together, and then they had two or three rounds. He backed horses, and always went "under the trees" to do so.

Mr. Tyrwhitt did not believe the evidence of the defendant's witnesses. The complainant was an older man than the defendant, and not fit to contend with a pugilist, as he was informed the defendant was. He should commit the defendant for one month, with hard labour.

SUBURBAN DANGERS.—George Dunlop, a young man, was charged with being concerned, with another man not in custody, with the following outrageous assault on Jan. 9 last.

Alexander Thorne, collecting clerk to Messrs. Young and Bainbridge, brewers, of Wandsworth, said that as he was crossing Putney Heath on the night in question, on his way from the Angel at Roehampton, where he had been on business, he heard some persons behind him, one of whom he discovered by the light of a lamp to be the prisoner. They went past him a short distance and then turned back, and the prisoners struck him two heavy blows on the head with a bludgeon or life-preserver. He tried to protect himself with his umbrella, but was soon tripped up. He lay on his left side, as the money which he had collected during the day was in the pockets on that side. The prisoner then stood on him, with one foot on his neck, as he was lying on the ground, and dealt him some more blows with the same weapon on the head. The prisoner's companion commenced tearing away the pockets at the skirts of his coat. They got one of the pockets, which contained a pocket ledger and a book of poems, and then ran away. He picked the prisoner out from among a lot of other men at Newgate, and would swear positively to his identity.

The prisoner was seen riding in a cart in Regent-street, and, when apprehended, said that the date named he was in Jersey, and protested that he was innocent.

Mr. Ingham remanded the prisoner.

A RECENT CASE OF DISTRESS.—CHARITY.—About a week since a man and his wife, named George and Harriet Slaughter, were charged with robbing their furnished lodgings. They had no family, but the winter months must have told fearfully upon them, for they had pledged even blankets to obtain food, which, nevertheless, was so scant in quantity that the man asserted he had had but one Sunday's dinner since Christmas, and altogether an insufficiency for his wife and self at any time. Mr. Newton dealt very leniently with the husband and discharged the wife. He afterwards directed inquiries to be made. The circumstances were duly reported, and, as usual in such cases, small sums of money were forwarded to the magistrate for the help of the miserable couple.

Devitt, one of the warrant officers of the court, now brought them before Mr. Newton, and stated he had every reason to believe the tale told to his Worship was a correct one—indeed, if anything, it was short of the most distressing features. The man had been formerly, and was now, in the employ of an extensive manufacturer of boots and shoes named Bateman, living in Goldsmith's-row, Hackney-road; but, from weakness consequent on insufficiency of victuals, he could not sit long enough at it to realise the money for support, and occasionally was altogether unable to do a stitch. There appeared to be a great many things in pawn of his own.

Mr. Newton expressed his gratification at hearing that, in this instance, no deception had been practised, and handed, from the following amounts received, £1 for their immediate assistance, which was received apparently with heartfelt gratitude by the recipients:—C. P. Brown, £1; Anonymous, £1; Pall-mall, 10s.; H. S. Southen, 10s.; per Mr. Hurstone (chief clerk), 10s.; J. A. B. Cochrane, 10s.; stamps, 4s.; L. B., 5s.; W. S., 2s.; and a Mother, 1s. 3d.

BIANCHI, THE BRIGAND.—In 1860 Pietro Bianchi was twenty years of age, a day labourer at Soveria, noted from his early boyhood for his agility and surprising strength. He was the best hunter in those mountains, and was reputed quick with a blow and dangerous to offend. When Garibaldi entered Calabria Bianchi took to the road. At first he stole sheep; but soon he betrayed sanguinary instincts, and his atrocities on various occasions made him a name of terror. By long and rapid marches he constantly eluded pursuit; the authorities despaired of taking him, unless by surprise or stratagem. A girl of seventeen, Generosa Cardamone, accompanied him in all his expeditions, and was often seen on horseback at the head of the band, encouraging them in the fight. She was worthy of her lover, and almost surpassed him in ferocity. She is said to have repeatedly cooked human flesh and served it up to him and his companions. This monster in the form of a young and pretty woman is now twenty-one; priests of her country are said to have thrown her into the arms of the brigand by working on her religious fanaticism. When last arrested, a religious book and a Madonna were found upon her person. She believed they rendered her invulnerable. Bianchi loved her passionately, and was madly jealous of her. One day one of his band dared to kiss her. Just then Bianchi came up and requited his audacity with a score of dagger-stabs. A lieutenant of gendarmes, stationed at Soveria, lately received information as to the position of a den to which Bianchi from time to time retired with his mistress for a few days' repose. With some gendarmes and a detachment of the line he betook himself to the village of Colla, near Castagna, in the district of Nicastro. The village was surrounded by surprise, and Lieutenant De Angelis went directly to the house of a certain Colosimo, whom he believed to be Bianchi's *manutengolo*—his "fence" and secret agent. But he was unable to discover the entrance of the cave where Bianchi ought to be. After a long search a gendarme noticed some freshly-picked chicken bones in a ditch. Presently an artificial hedge was detected, placed so as to conceal the entrance of a cavern. The hedge overthrown, a "tentorial" voice was heard. "Fate largo!" it cried—"Stand back!" "Sur-render, or you are dead!" retorted the Lieutenant. "Save this woman!" It was Bianchi, who wanted to save Generosa,

probably intending afterwards to defend himself desperately. But De Angelis left him no time. No sooner had the woman passed out than he rushed in with his men, and seized the bandit before he could defend himself. Seeing escape impossible, Bianchi dashed his revolver to the ground and resigned himself to his fate. The cave was spacious within; a lamp was burning before an image of the Madonna. Generosa's prayer-book was there, the places marked with bills given for ransom. The brigand was provided with abundant ammunition, a double-barrelled gun, and a revolver. In a corner were a bed of blankets and a good store of wine, cheese, bread, and sausage; also a little pastry, supplied by the *manutengolo* of Colosimo's house. On Bianchi were found a gold hunting-watch and a considerable sum in gold and silver coin. On parting from his mistress he threw himself into her arms and kissed her. Thenceforward he did not utter a word, his eyes lost all their expression and assumed a glassy look. This was the end of Pietro Bianchi, after he had for seven years stained the district of Nicastro with blood.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE prospect of an open rupture with Spain, and the complications in the Continent in reference to the Luxembourg question have had a depressing influence upon National Stock this week. The fall in these leading values has been 1 per cent. Consols for Money, have been 90 1/4; 100s. for Act. int. 90 1/4; Reduced and New Three per Cent. 88 1/4; Exchange Bills, 1s. to 20s. prem. Bank Stock has been 25 to 25 1/2.

Indian Stock has continued steady in price. India Stock 217 to 219; Ditto Five per Cent. 104 1/2; 100s. paper, 104 1/2, and 108 to 110; India Bonds, 47s. to 52s. prem.

The payment of the dividends has increased the supply of money on offer in the Discount Market. The demand for accommodation has been far from active, at the annexed rates for the best commercial bills:—

Three to Sixty Days	2 1/2 per cent.
Three Months	2 3/4
Four Months	3
Six Months	3 1/4

In the Stock Exchange money is worth only from 1 1/2 to 2 per cent.

Rather large supplies of gold have been reported. As the export demand is limited, they are expected to go into the Bank of England.

Foreign Stocks have shared in the general depression which took place in the commencement of the week—We quote Argentine 71 to 73; Brazilian, 97 to 99; Ditto, 180, and 166 to 68; Ditto, 180, 62 to 64; Buenos Ayres, 79 to 81; Ditto, deferred, 33 to 36; Chilean, 90 to 92; Ditto, 98 to 100; Ditto Scrip, 34 to 36; Colombia, 100 to 102; Ditto, 180, 97 to 100; Ditto, 180, 19 to 20; Ditto Scrip, 6 to 8; Ecuador, 12 to 13; Egyptian, 79 to 81; Ditto, second issue, 79 to 81; Ditto, 180, 77 to 79; Ditto Debenure, 77 to 79; Greek, 13 to 14; Ditto Coupons, 43 to 53; Italian, 80 1/2 to 81; Mexican, 15 to 15 1/2; Ditto, 180, 9 to 10; Moroccan, 98 to 100; New Granada, 123 to 125; Ditto Three per Cent. 32 to 33; Ditto 12 forti, 3 to 5; Ditto 40 to 42; Land Warrants, 3 to 5; Peruvian, 180, 68 to 68; Ditto, 180, 72 to 74; Portuguese, 180, 40 to 41; Russian, 180, 85 to 87; Ditto, 180, 80 to 82; Ditto, 180, 82 to 84; Ditto, 180, 84 to 86; Ditto, 180, 86 to 88; Ditto, 180, 88 to 90; Ditto, 180, 90 to 92; Ditto, 180, 92 to 94; 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CRYSTAL PALACE.—NEXT FRIDAY
(GOOD FRIDAY), GRAND SACRED CONCERT. Mr. Sims Reeves, M.D., R.D., Mr. Sanley, and Mr. W. Harper (Trumpet), Mr. Levy (Cornet), and Full Chorus. The Band of the Company will be augmented by the Full Band of the Coldstream Guards (Mr. F. Godfrey).
Concert will commence at Half-past Three o'clock. Visitors are advised to come early, as the day is one of more than ordinary attraction.
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